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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Old polemics cleared during King's visit to Saudi Arabia

By Ahmed Shaker
Special to The Star

BEFORE LEAVING Mecca to Madinah on Monday, His Majesty King Hussein extended an official invitation to Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia to visit Jordan. The visit is expected to take place in May—most likely during Jordan's celebration of its 50th anniversary.

Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti, who is also the defence minister, on his part invited Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, the Saudi second deputy premier and defence minister, to visit Jordan. And in his capacity as foreign minister, Kabariti invited his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al Faisal to visit the Kingdom.

The flurry of invitations came in the wake of the historic meeting in Mecca between King Hussein and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, where the past misunderstandings were cleared and a new page of bilateral relations opened.

A top ranking delegate accompanying King Hussein told *The Star* the obstacles which hampered these relations in the last few years have been removed once and for all.

These included the Saudi position towards Jordan's policies during the Gulf crisis and of the alleged support to Iraq during the latter's occupation of Kuwait.

The source also said that the Saudi side expressed its concern over what it saw as Jordanian expansionist aspirations in the Saudi Hijaz.

The Saudis said they were especially sensitive about the 'Hashemite Sharif' title which was previously ascribed to His Majesty King Hussein. The Hashemites ruled Hijaz before the creation of modern day Saudi Arabia.

The official noted that the Saudis dissociated themselves of the responsibility for Jordan's growing foreign debt. The Saudis said they had fulfilled their obligations up to the start of the Gulf War.

Saudi Arabia also expressed dissatisfaction over Jordan's intentions to transfer its democratic experiment to other areas in the region.

The Jordanian side frankly explained its policies and stances on all major issues of concern to the Saudis. Jordanian official pointed to the "white Paper", which explained Jordan's position from the Gulf crisis and was



published right after the Gulf War. Jordanian officials underlined the country's great effort to circumvent the crisis.

For their part, Jordanian officials raised a number of issues, including the Saudi position on Jordan's oil needs; the cessation of the Tapline operations; the termination of the permits of thousands of Jordanian workers in Saudi Arabia, and the misunderstandings around Jordan's foreign debt.

However, the new era of good neighborly and cooperative relations between the two

countries will witness the following developments:

- Revival of joint committees, the first among which is the forthcoming meeting of the Saudi-Jordanian economic committee. The Saudi finance minister will participate in this meeting;
- Agreement with regard to the significance of the special relation between the Hashemite and Saudi families, since both constitute the only two kingdoms in this area of the Middle East;
- The distinctive relations

between the two peoples of Saudi Arabia and Jordan will reflect itself on their countries economic, commercial and cultural interests. (The largest number of visitors for Umra were from Jordan this year).

■ Jordan emphasized Saudi Arabia's leading role of the Islamic world, the Arab Gulf, and in protecting the Islamic sites;

■ Saudi Arabia pledged to support Jordan in the Middle East peace process and to continue to do so to enable Jordan to maintain its proper place in the region;

■ The security of the two countries is indivisible. The joint security committee will reconvene regularly to combat all forms of terrorism and drug smuggling;

■ Saudi Arabia will support any joint Jordanian-Palestinian position relating to the coming era of establishing a comprehensive peace and especially with regard to the final solutions of the problems of refugees, displaced persons, Jerusalem, water.

Jordan will do its best to remove the current misunderstanding between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, whereas the latter will facilitate meetings between Jordan and Kuwait.

Les Jordaniens donnent leur opinion

A LIRE p. 12 dans LE JORDANIAN

Lawzi says Saudi-Jordan relations are on a final launch-pad

By Hamdan Al Hajj
Special to The Star

UPPER HOUSE Speaker, Mr Ahmed Al Lawzi, described this week's meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz as brotherly, candid and full of optimism.

Mr Lawzi told *The Star* that the one-day visit, during which the King and the accompanying delegation performed Umra and visited Al Medina, was an important step on the course of full restoration of bilateral cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

The meeting, he said, was another step on the road of reinstating common Arab action. The King was scheduled to meet with King Fahd but the latter's health condition prevented him from public duty.

The Upper House Speaker added that the meeting will have a positive impact on the peoples of the two countries and that citizens of both countries will feel its tangible results.

A high ranking member of the delegation that accompanied the King on his visit told *The Star* the talks dealt with Jordanian-Saudi relations, particularly in the period that followed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Jordan's position on that issue, and Saudi Arabia's



Lawzi

crisis chapter and overcome its negative implications. The two sides agreed that the Gulf Crisis and its repercussions will no longer disturb the course of Jordan-Saudi relations.

The King's visit to Saudi Arabia began half an hour after Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak left Jeddah after performing Umra. King Hussein and President Mubarak will meet in Cairo today, Thursday.

Jordanian and Saudi officials held two rounds of talks. The first included King Hussein, Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti from the Jordanian side, and Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, and Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz from the Saudi Arabian side. The second session was expanded to include, from the Jordanian side, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd. Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, and Chief of the Royal Court Dr Awn Al Khasawneh.

Mr Lawzi said the atmosphere that dominated the meetings was one of optimism and the two sides expressed mutual agreement on the need to improve bilateral relations as effectively as possible.

Faisal's report to the King: Authorities violate human rights

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

THE REPORT on human rights violations which was submitted to His Majesty King Hussein by Lower House Deputy Toujan Faisal, has shocked public opinion and unveiled the negligence of the Lower House and the Government in dealing with the issue of human rights in the country.

One is compelled to ask what makes a deputy demand to see the King to show him examples of abuse by security forces against citizens. Where is the role of Parliament, the Government and the King's advisers?

"I presented this report at the first session of the Lower House, and then on two other occasions, but it was ignored," Mrs Faisal told *The Star*.

"The doors of the three authorities, the legislative, executive and judicial, were all shut in my face, so I decided to go to the King, to put him in the picture."

When Mrs Faisal verbally informed the King of the human rights violations documented in her report, he showed his surprise and asked "Is this happening in our country?" Mrs Faisal then submitted the report to the King.

"My meeting with the King was at the beginning of January. I submitted a file with several security violations and a suggestion to establish a control office in the Ministry of Interior," Mrs Faisal said.

The report includes human rights transgressions practiced by the local security forces, and reveals abuse of authority by some general prosecutors for the benefit of their relatives and friends. Many observers consider this as one of the main reasons behind the change of Government, which is supported by the following excerpt from the letter of designation to Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti: "...We wish to form, within the apparatus of the public security and the Ministry of



Faisal

Interior, offices for internal control to supervise the performance of these agencies to maintain discipline."

"I asked the former Minister of Interior several times about these control offices in his min-

istry, but he was always elusive about the issue," Mrs Faisal said. "There was a collusion between the legislative and the executive branches to bury this report. I wonder why it did not reach the head of state right from the start."

Surprisingly, many deputies behave as though they have never heard of this report, and have started asking Mrs Faisal about its contents. "It was in their hands, and they gave it no attention," she said.

The outspoken Amman deputy does not consider her achievement as a victory over anybody, but as a means of revealing the misuse of author-

ity that has so far plagued the different constitutional institutions. "They used to fabricate misleading stories around my attempts to achieve reform, and launch accusations against my fight for crucial issues, specially concerning human rights," she added.

The cases included in the report are purely of humanitarian nature, and some speak of accusations coming from friends and relatives of police officers against citizens who were allegedly beaten by the police. Other cases point to incidents of bribery.

In the case of Ahmad Maatar, a senior student at the University of Applied Sciences, who was shot dead in his car by a police officer in September last year, the police claimed that they received a call stating that the car Ahmad was riding in was carrying drug dealers. It was later proved that the car was clean, and that the police

Continued on page 2

Shbeilat guaranteed winner in JEA elections

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

JORDANIAN ENGINEERS Association (JEA) elections this Friday are likely to prove very hot, coming in the unlikely of circumstances. By Wednesday about 12,600 JEA members had registered to vote in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Karak, Ma'an and Aqaba for the post of president, deputy and council of the 35,000 member association for the 1996-98 term.

The two traditional competitors include the White List (Islamist) and the Green List (nationalist and leftist). Candidates on the two lists completed their preparation after both failed to agree on a united list. The two groups pledged to support the current JEA Presi-



Shbeilat: Moral backing

dent Mr Leith Shbeilat, who is being accused of slandering the King and Queen, and is now on trial by the State Security Court. Shbeilat has been kept in custody for two months now. He will not be able to vote on Friday.

For two successive terms, the council has been dominated by the White List, including the post of vice president. Again, the White List is showing a strong presence headed by former president Mr Hassan Abu Ghaidah who is running for the post of vice president. Six White List candidates are running for council membership. Two Islamic candidates, Hassan Hawamdeh and Zohair Al Kasseh, violated the agreement to support the post of president.

On the opposite side, the Green List succeeded in uniting its ranks and overcame its problems. For the first time, they

Continued on page 3

Consumer culture creates a garbage explosion in Russia

By Stephanie Simon
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

MOSCOW—One whiff of the Khimki landfill makes it abundantly clear: Capitalism stinks. To be fair, the dump was also smelly in Russia's Communist days. But back then, comrades threw out mainly organic waste—potato peels, stray cabbage leaves and the like. Now, such trash looks downright frumpy, as hopelessly retro as a bookcase filled with the collected works of V.I. Lenin.

Moscow has moved way beyond the humble peasant garbage of Soviet days.

The almighty consumer culture has arrived. And trendy young Russians have embraced it with glee.

The proof is in their trash: Sticky soda bottles still sloshing Diet Pepsi. Greasy pizza boxes crusted with rancid cheese. Dirty diapers. Spoiled yogurt. Crumpled, sour beer cans. They all wind up at the dump, smashed into a towering pile with an odor only scavenger birds find sweet.

As ecological problems go, however, the stench is just a nuisance. Far more noxious is the sheer bulk of the rubbish.

Western packaging—plastic, aluminum, cardboard—now clogs Moscow's three landfills. With no recycling programs and just one functioning incinerator, sanitation workers are struggling to cope.

Ten years ago, no one paid much attention to trash, said Galina Grossman, a spokeswoman for Ekotekhprom, the municipal sanitation company. "Now, people understand that cleanliness is very important. They don't want

their city to be built on heaps of garbage."

Moscow produces about 2.5 million tons of nonindustrial waste a year. By the turn of the century, the city's annual trash load is expected to weigh in at three million tons.

But those statistics do not begin to capture the problem. As Grossman points out, a ton of plastic bottles takes up much more space—and takes a lot longer to decompose—than a ton of carrot shavings. To make matters worse, Moscow has just one trash-compressor facility, which handles less than three percent of the city's household waste. The rest of the crates, cans, bottles and boxes land in the dump intact.

"It's the ironic side to our reforms," Oleg Cherp, a regional director for the international environmental group Ecologia, said with a sigh. "When it's all mixed together in the dump, it really becomes a problem."

The first problem is simply getting the trash to the Khimki landfill, about 35 miles outside Moscow's city limits. Because so few

of the cartons and cans get crushed, household waste is frustratingly bulky. Garbage trucks must make trip after trip to the landfill to handle daily routes.

Grossman estimates that her crews spend 75 percent of their time hauling garbage to the dump, leaving few hours for circulating through the city to pick up more.

Fed up with sloppy trash collection, Muscovites have taken to handling their waste themselves—by burning it. Many of the battered green dumpsters that sit outside apartment buildings bear scorch marks. City firefighters

put out an average of 60 trash blazes a day. Many more fires probably go unnoticed, left to spew noxious smoke and potentially toxic chemicals into the air.

"Burning garbage like that is strictly forbidden," Grossman said. "But it's a big city, and maybe the inspectors don't have time to keep an eye on every corner of it."

As chief inspector, Public Works Director Ivan S. Ischenko said he is cracking down on illegal garbage fires.

Confronted with the garbage explosion, sanitation workers have doubled the number of public trash cans in Moscow, to 40,000. But most of the receptacles still tend to be squat and small—throwbacks to the Communist era, when Russians strolling city streets had little to toss except cigarette butts and they tended to recycle most everything that could be recycled.

The old days were nearly trash-free because generic Soviet stores selling generic Soviet products rarely used packaging. A clerk lucky enough to have butter for sale would slice slabs for customers and hand them over, unwrapped.

Meat was also sold unpackaged. Shoppers had to bring their own bags for cookies, eggs, cottage cheese.

Even beer did not come in handy containers. Trucks that looked suspiciously like cement mixers drove up to a street corner and disgorged beer into plastic bags, glass jars or whatever else buyers held under the tap.

The country's chronic shortages turned Russians into ace recyclers.

They washed and reused plastic bags. They converted newspaper scraps into toilet paper or linings for worn-out shoes. Glass milk bottles

were redeemed for rubles. Old newspapers were swapped for an even better prize: Hard-to-find books, which the state doled out as an incentive to recycle.

"Even with all our environmental problems, at least something was being done about our waste," sociologist Maria Zolotukhina remembered. "It was a very straightforward system, and now it's gone."

With existing landfills fast filling, Moscow is turning to alternative disposal plans. Several incinerators are under construction. Officials are also nudging along a prototype recycling program in Zelenograd, a Moscow suburb with about 400,000 residents.


To Kempson Dunn, a Moscow-based environmental analyst with the US consulting firm of Arthur D. Little, both approaches seem foolish. Incinerators are too expensive and too risky, he said. And recycling is not cost-effective for Russia right now, when so many ecological disasters demand immediate fixes.

"Too often, it seems, we project our values onto Russians," Dunn said, "telling them they need a recycling program or environmentally sound diapers, when kids are dying in the streets because the big industrial cities don't have scrubbers for their factories or treatment for their water."

Russian trash experts, however, do not want to delay their recycling programs. They are desperate to resurrect the old Soviet thriftiness before the American use-and-toss mentality becomes too entrenched. "We're returning to the old ways," Grossman said. "It's a very important moment for our society."

World Report

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JORDAN

WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Awni Abu Ghosh



King ends short visit to Saudi Arabia

His Majesty King Hussein said the long awaited meeting with our Saudi Arabian brothers has put an end to all misunderstandings which had interrupted our bilateral relations. The King confirmed that these relations are today better than at any other time, adding that it is in our mutual interest to preserve them now and in the future. He also added that both sides are determined not to allow any party to disrupt these relations as had happened in the past.

During King Hussein's brief visit to Saudi Arabia last week he conducted the rituals of Al Umra accompanied by high ranking officials of the Kingdom including the Prime Minister, Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses, advisors, and parliamentarians from various blocs.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations at the State Palace (Mecca) in a frank and open manner. They expressed their sincere intention to strengthen and preserve relations between them in the interest of both peoples.

The two sides also dealt with the issue of Arab solidarity, the strengthening of joint Arab action, and the need for mutual efforts to realize reconciliation between the Arabs so that they can stand up to the challenges of this historical period. The two sides discussed other regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern.

Rifai: Ambassador to Israel

Omar Al Rifai is to be appointed as Jordan's new ambassador to Israel. Mr Rifai, who is 39, replaces Dr Marwan Mouasher who is now the Minister of Information. Mr Rifai is a veteran diplomat who has long been involved in the peace process and worked closely with Israeli officials during the negotiations that culminated in the October 1994 Jordan-Israel peace treaty. In April, 1995 he became a coordinator of the Middle East peace process in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Al Rifai

Demo outside Amman-Cairo Bank

A demonstration was held last week outside the Cairo-Amman Bank in Al Shapsoogh street. The demonstration, which was organized by the General Union for Employees in Banking, Insurance and Accountant Offices (GUEBIAO) was held in protest of the sacking of Akram Al Nimri who is a member of the executive committee of GUEBIAO and a member of the central council of the General Trade Union for Workers.

...And trouble in Yarmouk

Over 400 employees of Yarmouk University have also staged a demonstration last week outside the president's office. The employees were protesting the fact that they were only given a 10 dinar cost of living allowance as opposed to lecturers who were

given 20 dinars. The employees have sent a letter to the Prime Ministry pleading arbitration. Also, it later came out that Yarmouk is the only university in the country which does not provide its employees with a travel allowance. Yarmouk University is in debt to the tune of JD 6 million. On another level, the university is to be congratulated for finally taking a stand on normalization. It has rejected the holding of a scientific conference because Israeli scientists would attend. The University administration feared that such an invitation would lead to trouble from its students. The conference will now take place in one of the hotels sometime in April.

Detainees released

Prime Minister Dr Awad ordered the release of all convicted detainees from correction centers around the country. The minister's decision came in the form of instructions addressed to Governors and administrators, and covered 259 individuals who are kept in custody under administrative procedures. Promising not to allow administrators to violate citizens rights, and to follow-up on complaints personally until the Central office is established, Minister Khleifat pointed out that he had studied the case of these detainees, and subsequently decided to order their release. Dr Khleifat also pointed out that new instructions will be issued in the coming few days in regard to the rules of granting Jordanian passports and citizenship. After the Eid Al Fitr holidays, Dr Awad Khleifat will begin his tour of the Kingdom's governorates with a view to learning people's complaints and problems.

First regional water declaration in Oslo

Jordan, and the PNA, and Israel have initialled a declaration dealing with the chronic water problems in the region. After two years of intense negotiations, the three parties yesterday in Oslo succeeded in finalizing a declaration of principles for cooperation on water-related matters and new and additional water resources in the Middle East, and the establishment of regional co-operative mechanisms.

The process has taken place within the framework of the Multilateral Peace Process in the Middle East, as part of the work of the multilateral Working Group on Water Resources.

Engineers for Ayash

The Engineers Association is to grant the family of Yahya Ayash a monthly salary according to *Al Quds* daily. Ayash, a Hamas activist, was killed in Gaza recently by a bomb explosion. An official later said that like anybody who is a member of the association, Ayash's family will receive a bulk amount of JD 1000 and then a monthly income of JD 60. The Engineers Association is just one of the professional associations who have ordered its members not to deal with Israelis despite the Jordan-Israel peace treaty that was signed in October 1994.

A view of Kabarti's future performance

About 51.7% respondents of the 1,200 ordinary people who responded to the questionnaire conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan anticipate a very good future for Mr Kabarti's gov. About 45.5% of the 501 respondents from public leaders shared the same opinion. The results of the questionnaire also show that 32% of the first sample and 34.5% of the second said the performance of the new Prime Minister will be 50/50. Only 2.7% and 4.6% of the two samples respectively said Mr Kabarti will be a failure in carrying his task.



Kabarti

However, respondents to the questionnaire were unanimous in regard to the challenges which Kabarti and his Cabinet have to face though they differ in priority ranking. These challenges are: unemployment, poverty, improvement of the living conditions of low-income workers, deepening the democratic process, public freedoms, the press, the development of the national economy, administrative reforms, combating corruption, furthering the peace process and Jordan's foreign policy.

Habitat's World Fair of Ideas for Peace

Jointly with the UN Conference on Human Settlement (Habitat II), the President of the Madrid-based Pazy Coop-



Jalal Rifai/Ad Dastour

Postpartum Center opens at Al-Bashir Hospital

The first and largest of 12 Comprehensive Postpartum Centers in Jordan was opened today at Al Bashir Hospital in Amman by Minister of Health Aref Bataineh and United States Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan. Al Bashir Postpartum Center is the first result of the five-year Comprehensive Postpartum Project funded by the United States Government through a grant of \$11 million. The project is projected to benefit an estimated 350,000 mothers and infants in Jordan.



Bataineh

This center provides regular medical check-ups and health services for mothers and infants from pregnancy through delivery and care services through the postpartum period, the 40 days that follow child birth. The project seeks to improve mother and child care services by establishing postpartum centers throughout Jordan in selected government, military and university hospitals.

60 days to hand over the people alleged to have attempted to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last year. In a press conference at the Sudanese Embassy, Mr Numeiri said the UN resolution deals with the issue as if the three wanted persons were actually on Sudanese soil, and ignores the fact they are Egyptians and that an Egyptian organization proclaimed responsibility for the attempt.

view in regard to reconciling African disputes within OAU mechanisms. Mr Numeiri said the UN resolution deals with the issue as if the three wanted persons were actually on Sudanese soil, and ignores the fact they are Egyptians and that an Egyptian organization proclaimed responsibility for the attempt.

Ambassador condemns UN resolution

The Sudanese Ambassador in Amman Ali Abdel Rahman Numeiri condemned last Monday's UN Security Council resolution no. 1044 which denounces Sudan and gives it

Messages of solidarity for Shbeilat

Last week, Leith Shbeilat presented a very brief statement to the court. He reiterated his innocence, and claimed that the charges filed against him are false. In answering the questions of the prosecutor general, Shbeilat said that his statement during interrogation was given under psychologically terrifying conditions, where free will and choice were totally missing. He added that the statement was taken in an illegal manner, and his signature extracted without him having heard the written text.

Well-known Egyptian journalist and writer Mohammad Hasanein Haykal sent a message of solidarity to Shbeilat, emphasizing people's right to free expression. Haykal said that he himself had gone through a similar experience in the past, and pledged to be at the disposal of Shbeilat's family if needed.

Ahmed Ben Bella, former Algerian president, sent a message inquiring about developments in Shbeilat's case, and underlining the

fact that his imprisonment was based on political reasons. Ben Bella said he had already started contacts with human rights and international organizations demanding his release.

Palestinian academic Dr Edward Said contacted Shbeilat's family expressing his solidarity and stating that he will actively work with his organization for his release. AOHR/Egypt also sent a message of solidarity to Shbeilat and demanded his immediate release. Egyptian AOHR secretary general Mohammed Fa'ou said that, based on its observance of the International Convention on Civil Political Rights, Jordan is obliged to free Shbeilat.

The Washington-based Human Rights Watch group was deeply concerned and called for his immediate release.

The new Minister of Administrative Development Dr Kamal Nassar said that there is a strong possibility that Shbeilat might be released on bail before the Eid holidays.

Authorities neglect human rights, report claims

Continued on page 2

officer had not been given the permission to use his gun.

In another case, a woman was arrested and the police held her under investigation because she tried to intervene in a case brought against her husband for issuing a bad cheque. She was detained in Al Jwaideh Correctional Facility, and then allegedly tortured by three policemen who stripped her and flogged her. One of the three policemen was a relative of the person who had filed the complaint against the woman's husband. The victim's lawyer reported this incident to the director of the Public Security Dept., but no measures were taken, and the policeman is still at her job, the report claimed.

Another incident involves a young man who was arrested and allegedly tortured by the police because the owner of the house where he was living with his family had agreed with the police to put pressure on the father of the young man to evacuate the house. During the torture session, one policeman

asked the victim for JD 5 to stop hitting him.

There is also the story of a woman who got a court ruling stating that she is the legal owner of house in which she lived, but was then evicted because her influential husband allegedly conspired with some members of the police to evict her from her house.

Another story speaks of Mr Abdalla Eiskhan, who was arrested after a quarrel with another person. He was later detained by the Zarga military intelligence agents and allegedly tortured by ten agents.

In another case documented by the report, Mr Wisam Waheby was harassed by a police officer, severely beaten and sent to hospital. Police claimed that the man was resisting them with sticks and an ax. Eye witnesses contradict the police story.

"I meant to present humanitarian cases not political ones, although there are also many of these, because some officials use state security as an excuse for their actions," said Mrs Faisal.

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Authorities neglect human rights, report claims

Continued on page 2

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JORDANIAN PAPERS

By Marwan Al Azzam

Waiting for Kabarti Government to deliver

THE APPOINTMENT of Mr Abdel Karim Al Kabarti as Prime Minister is a welcome change and certainly sets this Government apart from previous ones.

A fresh new face with a dynamic personality that now enjoys the full trust of His Majesty King Hussein, Kabarti comes across as a doer and a man who wants to get things done. Mr Kabarti wants no less than a complete overhaul of domestic politics. His new administration is being dubbed as the Government of the new generation—which must be displacing to the old guards.

So under the Kabarti Government we are to enjoy greater economic and political liberalization, stronger waves of reform, growing respect of public freedoms and better handling of bureaucracy.

People have argued that public freedoms have long been battered and that it is high time for such a reversal and return to true democracy. This Government seems to be committed to this issue in particular. On the face of it the Cabinet is adopting a new tone and a character that is only equaled to the first Sharif Zeid Bin Shaker government of 1989.

Kabarti's choice of ministers is an important indicator of its intentions and the 22 deputies in the Government are a further evidence of Kabarti's willingness to work with the people's representatives.

The appointment of Dr Awad Khleifat to head the Ministry of Interior and the establishment of a supervisory committee in the ministry is a further proof that public liberties and the respect for human rights will be on the top of the agenda of the new Government. The Cabinet is also going after bureaucratic mismanagement and corruption as well.

The former Government was also keen to promote the idea of a "clean administration," but it is not clear how the Kabarti Government will handle abuse in public sector corporations, the on-going investigation into the Petra Bank collapse and the nagging problems of Royal Jordanian. To tackle such issues a Government must have real teeth and prepare to carry out a cleaning program if it has any. So far previous governments have been unwilling to do so because of vested interests.

And these are operative words. For all the goodwill in the world, government's have been unwilling to be against vested interests. However, it would be unfair to brand the Kabarti Government in a similar light, especially since it is just starting out with a lot of innovative ideas.

But people are expecting something more from the new Prime Minister. The long-delayed fruits of peace are still on the lips of everyone. They expect him to use his diplomatic skills and relations with the Gulf states and the European community to obtain greater foreign investment and get the economy rolling.

Remembered as the man who restored relations with the Gulf states, he will be hard pressed if he does not deliver the goods.

But curiously enough there has been little substance on the economy. While the Government is going for greater economic prosperity people will soon be expecting it to increase the standard of living, lower prices and boost employment. Today, Kabarti is riding high in popularity, but after a while the people will demand tangible evidence to deliver the goods.

Shbeilat winner in

Continued from page 1

nationalists are setting up a strong fight against Mr Shbeilat. In addition to the running for presidential candidates, the election campaign since the beginning of the local press, asking for the time of his arrest. Mr Kamal Nassar issued an appeal to Shbeilat's family to wait for the court to make his role and ask for pardon him.

On the other hand, Mr Dr Kamal Nassar issued a statement saying that "Shbeilat is a winner in the race in favor of the highest responsibility to sustain the peace process."

Mr Shbeilat said that the President of the votes was an embarrassment to the anti-peace campaign. Under Mr Shbeilat, establishing relations and is preparing a new role.

Mr Shbeilat's family is also preparing a new role. Mr Shbeilat's family is also preparing a new role.

Family wishes King on the Eid

Uniquely Inter-Continental

Extend their hearts to the King on the Eid



His Majesty King Hussein and the accompanying delegation performing Umra in Mecca on Monday during the King's short visit to Saudi Arabia. The King was accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Prince Faisal, Prime Minister Abdel Kabarti, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and other officials.

Shbeilat guaranteed winner in JEA elections

Continued from page 1

gathered nationalists and leftists under one list and are putting up a strong fight against the Islamists. The Green List is headed by Mr Abdel Rahman Bitar, and five other candidates are running for the council.

In addition to the two main rivals, there are other independent candidates. Eight independent including Shbeilat are running for president.

Sources told *The Star* that Mr Shbeilat is carrying out his election campaign from his prison cell in Al Jweideh. Since the beginning of the month he started advertising in the local press, asking members to pay their subscription fees to be eligible to vote.

At the time of his arrest, Mr Shbeilat instructed his lawyer, Mr Jawad Yunis to work for his candidacy registration. In his meeting last Friday, the general assembly of the JEA issued an appeal to His Majesty the King to release Mr Shbeilat. Sources told *The Star* that "The new Government will wait for the court to convict Mr Shbeilat in an attempt to weaken his role and control his behavior. Then it may seek to pardon him."

On the other hand Minister of Administrative Development Dr Kamal Nasser, former President of the Lawyers Association and a strong supporter of Shbeilat, was quoted as saying that "Shbeilat may be released on bail before Eid Al Fitr."

JEA sources said that in general the engineers will support Mr Shbeilat. They estimate that he will receive about 70 percent of the votes. Mr Shbeilat's victory will certainly be seen as an embarrassment to the Government and a victory for the anti-peace camp.

Under Mr Shbeilat, the JEA prohibited its members from establishing relations with Israeli companies and individuals and is preparing a "black list" of members who violate such rules.

Islamist contender Ali Abu Sukar, who later withdrew from the race in favor of Abu Ghaida, said the number of those who paid their membership fees to become eligible voters is the highest in the JEA's history. He said it is a moral responsibility to support Mr Shbeilat.

Questions to the Kabariti Government

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr Tala Obeidat is one of the Lower House deputies for the Irbid Constituency. An independent, he voted against the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty in October 1994. A forceful character, Mr Obeidat was the head of the Lower House Administrative Committee in the 1995 parliamentary session. He is a retired brigadier general. He spoke to *The Star's* Raed Al Abed about the new Government. Excerpts follow:

How do you view the new Government? Do you think that it is capable of carrying the burden of governing the country?

I believe that all governments in Jordan are short-lived. At the same time no ministry can implement the new policy of the new minister or Government in time to positively reflect this on the whole Government performance. Also I do not understand why the previous Government was changed. But it seems that it is a habit in Jordan that no Government should stay more than a year.

... But the program of this Government includes dealing with issues that are serious such as poverty, unemployment, administrative mismanagement, and human rights.

Nothing new. In every Royal designation and Government statement these issues are stressed; poverty, unemployment, agriculture ... etc. But when it comes to practice nothing is done. Because dealing with unemployment or poverty



Mr Obeidat

needs money, and the Lower House passed the budget before the assignment of the new Government. Then reform as seen by the new Government will require additional new expenses. Where will they get it from? Constitutionally after the budget is passed you can not add any funds to it.

Have you been offered a post in the new Government?

Directly, I have not offered a post, because they know me. I will reject any post in the

Government. What about the vote of confidence, do you have any particular conditions to give your support to the Kabariti Government?

I am going to ask the Government several questions, and my vote will depend on the answers. These questions are: What is Jordan's interest in having warm relations with Israel? Why are we quick to normalize while we are still on bad terms with other Arab countries like Syria and Iraq? What is the

stand of the Government towards Iraq? Is Jordan going to be a base for the destruction of Iraq through the so-called Iraqi opposition? I am pro-Iraq, because Iraq never hesitated to give its support to its Arab brothers. So I believe that we should not interfere in Iraqi affairs. Iraq has enough problems. We should leave Iraq to its people—those who elected Saddam Hussein with a majority in last year's poll.

Another question concerns the wide authorities given to the Government and how high ranking posts are filled. I will ask if this Government will rely on nepotism and patronage or merit in its hiring and firing policy. The people of my district were not treated fairly by the previous Government when it came to hiring new employees in the Government. And finally I am going to ask the Government about its plans to deal with poverty.

What is your reaction to the human rights report that was submitted to His Majesty the King by Deputy Toujan Faisal?

I have no knowledge of Mrs Faisal's report. But I am not totally satisfied with the role of Parliament in general. Every deputy has his own view of issues. Parliament must be concerned with the interest of the citizens and the country. These interests must always come before personal interests. People who elected the deputies wanted them to bring positive changes in their lives.

Point of order

By Raed Al Abed

A waste of ink and paper

With every new cabinet, daily newspapers have a field day by congratulatory messages to newcomers in the Government.

The same individuals and companies who congratulated the previous cabinet, are now doing it again. It seems as though they have a set text, and change the names and faces according to each new Government. Perhaps they mistake the ministerial post for an honorary appointment, rather than seeing it as the assignment that it truly is, or maybe they see it as a chance to satisfy their own personal goals through the person currently in charge. We understand that some people are sincere in their congratulations, but we worry that companies and individuals offer their congratulations as a way of kissing up.

What disturbs us is that those who flaunt their congratulations in the press do not use this access into the media to relay the interests of the country or the people, nor do they offer any advice to the members of the new cabinet. They simply praise the official as if he holds a magic wand that will transform the country into a paradise. If the Government fails to achieve its program, everyone, including those who praised its ministers at the beginning of their assignment, starts to criticize.

The Government should ban such advertisement in the press, because much of it is mere flattery, and serves no constructive purpose. Instead, we want to ask those who waste thousands of JDs on this frivolous habit, to use the money for worthwhile endeavours, or to donate it to charity, in a bid to help the Government achieve its enormous task.

It is logical to congratulate a minister when, or if the people can sense tangible achievements on the ground, and the situation in the country changes to the better.

The new Government is facing a long and tough marathon ahead. We are still at the starting point, let us offer advice and cooperation, and criticism where it is due.

Hands off JTV

In the heavy traffic of international TV satellites, Jordan Television stands confused. Left under the mercy of the Ministry of Finance, its progress has been gagged.

We believe that it is time for administrative and financial independence for our gateway to the world. The administration of JTV is being blamed by citizens and by the press, but the truth is that the administration itself is asking for its hands to be freed, so it can manage to satisfy the needs of the people, and to bring JTV to a level at which it can compete with neighboring countries.

The time has come to review the decrepit laws that still govern the budget of our television. It is unacceptable to leave the budget of this important institution under the 'drop by drop' policy of the Ministry of Finance and to apply the edicts of the 1950s when we are nearing the end of the 20th century.

TV stations in the world are financed by income from TV advertisement, which helps them to produce good quality programs and buy the best of TV production. This, in turn, attracts citizens to their national TV station.

The current situation of our station is sorrowful. All the income from advertising is pouring into the Ministry of Finance which finances the station with a limited budget. This has never experienced even the slightest increase, even when the need was dire.

TV stations from other countries have managed to recruit our qualified TV personalities by giving them better salaries and opportunities. Many of our local talents have abandoned the local drama scene which managed to build a very good reputation in the Arab world, and which is now missed by Jordanians and the Arab world, as local actors and actresses moved to stage performance and even to neighboring countries where they are offered better money, facilities, and privileges.

Victoria College Schools

Presents its warmest wishes to His Majesty King Hussein on the happy occasion of EID AL-FITR

Rawdat Al Ma'aref College & Schools

Presents its warmest wishes to His Majesty King Hussein on the happy occasion of EID AL-FITR

Agricultural Marketing & Processing Co.

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Pizza Hut® & Popeyes Restaurants

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JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES CO.

Presents its warmest wishes to His Majesty King Hussein on the happy occasion of EID AL-FITR

JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY

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JORDAN TECHNICAL EST.

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ALPHACAN Al-Maaden Trading and Marketing Est.

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Ammon SHIPPING & TRANSPORT

The Management and Staff of Ammon Shipping & Transport Extend their heart felt congratulations to His Majesty King Hussein on the happy occasion of EID AL-FITR

MUNIR SUKHTIAN GROUP

The Management and Staff of MUNIR SUKHTIAN GROUP Extend their heart felt congratulations to His Majesty King Hussein on the happy occasion of EID AL-FITR

Jordan Phosphate Mines Co.

The Management and Staff of Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. Extend their heart felt congratulations to His Majesty King Hussein on the happy occasion of EID AL-FITR

Pizza Inn Restaurants Family Food Center

Presents its warmest wishes to His Majesty King Hussein on the happy occasion of EID AL-FITR

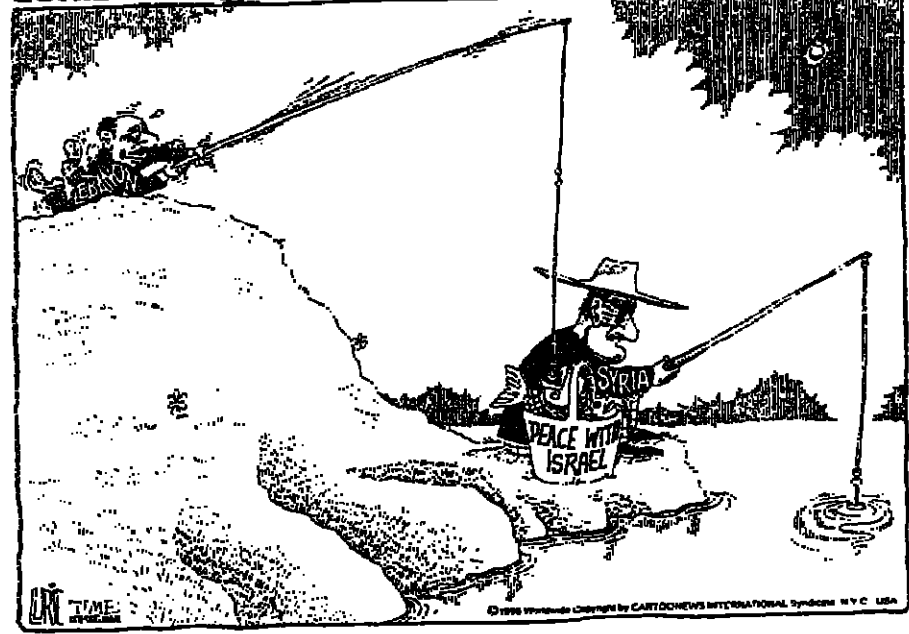
Unity Trading Establishment

Presents its warmest wishes to His Majesty King Hussein on the happy occasion of EID AL-FITR

Jordan Cement Factories

Extend their heart felt congratulations to His Majesty King Hussein on the happy occasion of EID AL-FITR

LURIE'S WORLD



Our Say...

Reforming our information policy

MINISTER Of Information Dr Marwan Muasher is embarking on a major overhaul of the information policy of Jordan. He told members of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) this week the Government of Abdel Karim Kabariti will soon present amendments to the Press and Publication Law of 1993 with the aim of enhancing press freedom, protecting journalists from persecution and reforming the structure of the state-run media. But most exciting of all, Dr Muasher reiterated his intention to go ahead with plans to abolish the Ministry of Information altogether.

Such statements by a high-ranking Government official heralds a much needed change in the information policy that Jordan has been following for years. It puts to rest recent speculations that Jordan was going backwards in its democratization process. The statements are so impressive that they warrant a broad dialogue between the press body on one hand and the Government on the other, as well as between the legislature and the executive bodies. This change will coincide with the Lower House discussion of a five-year-old draft law submitted by the JPA to amend its own law.

This is a historic juncture in the democratic evolution of the country that we should not allow to pass without full participation on behalf of everyone concerned.

What is needed at this stage is a clear definition of the role of the press in the shaping of Jordanian democracy. The finalization of such a definition will make it easier for all those concerned to embark on a reform policy that will safeguard national interests while guaranteeing a healthy performance of the press and the media in general without repeating the mistakes of the past.

While we respect His Majesty's sincere call for a "white revolution" with the aim of changing the status quo, we must be realistic in our desire to achieve the possible through a painless transition. An evolution in our information policy is probably a more appropriate term of reference. For change to happen, it must not come only from the top down. The press body must be allowed to participate in forging a new information charter where their responsibilities can be defined in accordance with the unique position of Jordan in the region.

We have called before for the abolition of the Ministry of Information by virtue of the dramatic changes that have been taking place in Jordan since 1989. The mandate that the ministry had in the 1980's is no longer valid today. Instead, we are with Dr Muasher that the court, even a special press court, must be the final arbiter in violations covered by the laws of the land. Liberalizing the state-run media is an important ingredient in creating a balanced and objective information system in the Kingdom.

But for all these things to happen, we must set our priorities in the right order. We must create a system of checks and balances within the press body where guidance and control can come from within not from without. To start this long process of evolution, an open dialogue must begin. We have heard the Government's point of view. Now it's time to make ours.

Letters to the Editor

Congratulations

Dear Sir,
I would like to congratulate you for providing this excellent service for all of those interested in getting daily news on the Arab world in general and on Jordan in particular. I have always been an avid reader of both *Ad Dastour* and *The Star* and have been disappointed to find little opportunity for getting information on Jordan and the Arab World here in the States.

I am very interested in women's issue and would like to urge you to publish on this very important issue. I am a graduate student in Sociology at UMass/Boston and I am concentrating on Medical Sociology, in particular on women and health.

The topic of my MA thesis will be on the relationship between the status of women in selected Arab countries and their fertility and reproductive health. I was an employee at UNESWA and UNICEF before I came to the States to work towards my MA.

I would like to thank you again and to wish you the best of luck in this project. I await the time when *Ad Dastour* will get on line.

tap@cs.umb.edu, Internet

Impressive efforts..

Dear Sir,
I would first of all thank you, on behalf of myself and the Arabic Society in Queen Mary & Westfield College-University of London, for your marvelous and much appreciated efforts in putting this project together. I am very pleased to find such a newspaper, of high standard and honesty, available on the Internet. And perhaps in the near future when there is proper Internet access in Jordan. *The Star* might gain great popularity provided that it's honesty is maintained at such a high level in comparison to all other Jordanian newspapers.

We think *The Star* is a major success, and we wish it all the best.
Sincerely yours,

Amer I. Madanat
QMW Arabic Society (secretary)
email: ee9496@qmw.ac.uk

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'I will try to establish democratic institutions that safeguard rights and freedoms,' says Ashrawi

SHE'S AN ELEGANT, chic woman in a patriarchal movement dominated by the three-day stubble and battle fatigues. A Christian in a Muslim milieu. A polished professional in a society where about one quarter of her sisters are illiterate. She's the outsider's insider—Dr Hanan Ashrawi.

Ashrawi was one of just five women elected in the 20 January elections to the 88-member Palestinian legislative council, and the only woman elected to represent Jerusalem.

Born in Nablus in 1946, Ashrawi grew up in Ramallah. Her father, Daoud Mikhail, was a founding member of the PLO. She was educated at the University of Beirut and the University of Virginia and taught English literature at Bir Zeit University. She has been married to Jerusalemite Emile Ashrawi for 21 years and they have two daughters.

Ashrawi served as the spokeswoman for the Palestinian negotiating team during the Madrid talks. Today, she heads a human rights organization.

A no-nonsense woman, Ashrawi chain-smoked the entire time she was interviewed by *The Jerusalem Post's* Gail Lichtman.

What is the significance of the Palestinian elections?

The elections as a whole are part of the nation-building process—to democratically elect a representative body which would have the powers of legislation, representation and accountability. And, in a sense, they are an essential component of the state building process. As I see the elections, they have become a source of empowerment and legitimization.

You live in Ramallah, and yet you chose to run as a representative of Jerusalem. Why?

Well, I have a Jerusalem ID. I am married to a Jerusalemite and I have a Jerusalem address. But at the same time, I always wanted national elections. I wanted comprehensive representation. The closest thing to national representation is Jerusalem. Plus the fact that it is the most difficult issue, the most pressing. Jerusalem is going to be the focus of negotiations and it is the core of the Palestinian nation.

What do you envision as the future of Jerusalem?

Well it is no secret that Jerusalem should be the capital of two states. I believe that it should embody the principle of sharing and should be the real seat of peace. Let's put it this way. I don't think that Jerusalem should be the exclusive possession of one side. I believe that both east and west Jerusalem should be an open city for both peoples. But it should be the capital of two states.

How does that reconcile with the pronouncements of the Israeli government that Jerusalem is the united, undivided capital of Israel?

What I really want to see is the Israeli government that Jerusalem is the united, undivided capital of Israel?

The Israeli government cannot speak two languages simultaneously. It cannot speak the language of peace and pragmatism and reconciliation when it comes to everything else, and speak the language of ideology and absolutism when it comes to Jerusalem. If there is a real commitment for a just and genuine peace, then it has to understand the need to achieve an equitable solution on Jerusalem. When you start discussing Jerusalem, ideologically, away from realities, away from the rights of the other side, then you are negating the very essence, the basis of the peace process. One has to reach the conclusion that without Jerusalem, there is no peace.

Is there any room for compromise in your position?

Of course. We have compromised to accept the two state solution.

You would view West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and that wouldn't bother you?

If east Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine. Because you have to have an even-handed equation. You cannot say what's mine is mine and what's yours is yours and let's talk about everything else. It doesn't work. Let's see how we can maintain the integrity of Jerusalem and deal with that in an expansive and holistic way rather than in a possessive, ideological and closed way.

You ran as an independent. Who do you see yourself representing?

I represent those who voted for me on the basis of my platform, vision and commitment to a contemporary, democratic state that is based on the rule of law, on safeguarding the rights and freedoms of all citizens.

I understand the seat you won was the Christian seat. I didn't run on the basis of a Christian seat. I won by getting a large number of votes and that's how it should be.

But isn't your seat one of the two reserved Christian seats?

I became one but I didn't have to be boosted to get in. I worked hard to get a majority of votes and to do that, I presented national issues. And it happened when I got the seat that there was only one more Christian seat.

Out of the 88 members elected to the council, only five were women. Are you



Ashrawi

satisfied with this?

No. Certainly not. I think we deserved more. The women who were running were certainly qualified. They fought against tremendous odds to be able to get there. There are many reasons why we didn't get more representation. First there are the traditional attitudes of the male-dominated society. Second, there is the position of the political organizations and parties which did not include a sufficient number of women on their lists and did not actually support women as much as they should have. Third, the difficulties of running as an independent. We needed voter awareness. We needed a public information campaign. We needed more networking.

Do you find that Palestinian women tend to put women's priorities on the back burner and deal with so-called national priorities first?

Well, you'd be surprised. If you look at the platforms of most candidates, men and women - there was a commitment to gender issues. Whether it was lip service or not, remains to be seen.

What do you see as the major issues facing Palestinian women?

One of the most basic issues has to do with legislation. We need just laws to ensure that women have recourse. But simultaneously, we should work on issues of education, literacy, adult education, and compulsory education for both genders.

What is the illiteracy rate among Palestinian women?

In the overall population, I think it's about 23 per cent, and of course the majority would be women. Therefore, the women's illiteracy rate would be higher.

Are there any specific is-

ssues that have to be targeted for women?

Yes, projects, especially income-generating ones. These are very important. Some kind of on-site projects, especially in rural areas.

Women in rural areas require some positive intervention in order to feel that they can be economically productive. I also think that there are certain projects that are needed like day care centers, nurseries, special community projects, mother/child centers and primary health care.

You've said in the past that it is very difficult for women to gain support and have the right structures which enable them to succeed in politics. How do you manage to put it together?

I didn't do it alone. Most women who have managed to break through certain barriers, are women who had support at home. My father, from the beginning, was a strong advocate of women's rights and the raised us as such. My husband is not only an advocate, but a real practitioner of women's rights. He and my daughters were a major source of support and encouragement for me. Also, you have to keep your eyes focused on the goal and not to be deflected, distracted or intimidated, and not to accept any kind of imposed restrictions in terms of roles, especially those based on gender.

You have been working lately in the field of human rights. There are those who say that freedom of speech and freedom of the press were gagged during the Palestinian elections.

This wasn't during the elections. Our record on freedom of the press and freedom of speech and expression, and on respect for human rights organizations is sadly lacking. So, it wasn't just a sudden thing for the elections. We spoke out, whether as individuals or organizations, against any violations or abuse that took place.

How do you envision your role in the council?

I am going to continue to speak out. There is a need for honesty, courage, and for addressing issues in a forthright and candid manner. I see myself as trying to maintain or establish democratic institutions that will safeguard rights and freedoms. And perhaps as an independent voice within, some kind of, I wouldn't say coalition, but a getting together, a convergence of like-minded people.

Water issue

IT WOULD be almost

assume that the current regional tension, especially the crucial water issue, would be maintained without escalating friction in the future.

The peaceful change have blown the Middle East, we now put aside our differences with Israel, and the conflict between us, we find ourselves simply approaching a new conflict, which has been in the making for a long time. The possibility of a conflict which many are warning about, and many proposals made to solve.

Our excuse has always been we had other important things besides water. Our media has been circumspect in highlighting the importance of this question due to, perhaps, its technicality. Or maybe, so as not to sound alarmist.

It does not mean that our neighbors have the same mentality, for the Turkish media is more forceful especially when it comes to the Syria and Iraq fights in the waters of the Euphrates, and Tigris. The same problem exists for Jordan, Lebanon, and Israel. What is required is a more vigorous water diplomacy.

Our region is not accustomed to crisis. We have been through a great deal, and are right to demand a great deal. We have been through enough destructive wars. Even the mighty oil crisis, we managed to contain, but who can contain human thirst, and the destruction of agricultural food production?

And why reduce ourselves to a future level of savagery, like a film seen an era were water is the most precious commodity? It is within our reach to sit together and, through our difficulties, reach an acceptable solution.

A most important peace dividend with Israel, has been water pumping to Jordan. At one time enemies, the peace agenda, turned this into cooperation for the common benefit of both countries.

It was curious to see the two opponents of the Ba'ath in Iraq and Syria sit together to coordinate their policies vis-a-vis Turkey and the building of dams to control river waters. Until recently, both countries would not even acknowledge the existence of each other, yet when it comes to water, they found that the common good is higher than any petty enmity. It is most likely that water will feature highly in the future peace set-up between Syria and Israel.

It is illogical to plan transport infrastructure, and economic zones for the benefit of the region including Syria, when we do not actually know, whether we shall survive through hunger till the end of the century or not. Just other difficult issues related to the ultimate satisfaction of all, it is most natural that one must demand a conference dealing with this organic issue.

A peaceable approach, and a peaceful gathering may work out solutions that not one single bullet from any side can portend. Are we to surrender to barbarism, succumb to violence, and prove to the world that warfare is truly endemic to the region? Or just simply allow our experts in the area to represent our individual concerns in the hope that the future generations can understand that.

There are other alternatives to bloodshed, and the concerns for the lack of water may be alleviated with goodwill from all Jordan has shown in goodwill in proposing to host such a conference, and it is up to the rest of the region to support it.

Hillary Clinton

A First Lady with character

By Carrie Nelle Moye
Star US Correspondent

THE FIRST Lady has been caught in a web of her own making. No, I am not referring to what may or may not have been her specific involvement with Whitewater. No, I am not referring to what role she may or may not have played in the firing of the White House travel office staff.

What Hillary Rodham Clinton has done is to cave in to the demands of her detractors and attempt to become a more traditional First Lady. She wrote—or partially wrote, or had a ghost-writer pen—a book, *It Takes a Village*, aimed at children. Then she undertook a promotional tour to expose both the book and herself. Fine. Had that been her forte. But a new image is not what America needs from our First Lady. Those who have been in support of her from the beginning can only feel empathy for her trying to fit into a mold in which she appears uncomfortable.

Those who scoffed at her individualism and determination to be more than an ornament on the arm of her husband were not and are not going to like Hillary Rodham Clinton whatever she does. She can sit looking worshipfully at her husband as he speaks; she can give media tours of the White House; when questioned she can respond, "Whatever my husband says," she can even sit in the lap of a super sports figure and

be photographed for the cover of a popular magazine—all ploys that have made former First Ladies acceptable to the American public. But she will not be embraced by her once and future detractors. She should not stoop to performing such antics.

When the former Arkansas governor was running for President, it was perfectly clear that his wife was a very strong woman in her own right. Indeed, Clinton is on record as saying that if he were elected, Americans would get "two for one." The voters with whom this did not sit well will not be placated by anything Hillary Rodham Clinton does. But most voters who supported Clinton would be much more supportive of the First Lady if she would use her more than considerable talents in the areas of her expertise.

What repels a person with whom one feels uncomfortable more than that person trying to be accepted, liked, pleasing to the point of becoming ingratiating, obsequious? It has the opposite effect. And so it is with Hillary Rodham Clinton, addressing an elementary classroom versus a law school classroom. This is not to say she dislikes being with children; rather, it just underlines her ability to be more comfortable in another role. And what America needs, just as any company needs, is for the individual to produce in the area in which she is most comfortable and confident.

It is true that the First

Lady's health care plan was not accepted by the politicians of the House and Senate. So what? Her in-depth research and results would not have been accepted by the present decision-makers no matter what it contained. It was condemned before it was presented.

She was a forceful, democratic woman—the wife of the President for heaven's sake—proposing a plan before the opposition party which had sworn to cause a revolution—a revolution of their own making, not that of the enemy. Most Americans, for or against the present First Lady, still respect honesty rather than hypocrisy. There should be no attempt to force the President's wife into a predetermined role. Her life has been one of accomplishment. Why not urge her to be herself, to continue to utilize those talents which have made her so successful in the past?

She should not be subpoenaed by the Senate's Whitewater committee. She should insist on appearing before it. If she confronts the enormously irritating and obnoxious chairman, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, who appears to take pride in coming on as an agitated pit bull, most likely the public would see the senator limping away from such an encounter a chastised pup with his tail between his legs. If she made mistakes regarding the Whitewater affair, let her acknowledge them and give her version. She has not achieved all that she has, in her life by being

dishonest: she had no need to be.

Let her come forward with her account of her participation or lack of same in the travel office firings. It has been documented and acknowledged that there were deep discrepancies between the "audited" books and the actuality of what had been occurring in that office to a time far preceding the Clinton presidency. If she played even a perceived role in clearing this up, fine. If she attempted to replace the fired staff with competent friends, she showed poor judgment but it was not illegal. What person in power has not directly or through influence had friends appointed to positions?

This is pure and simply reality. And as women are accepted more and more into the world, whether by choice or by necessity, Hillary Rodham Clinton will have been the First Lady more representative of the public than her predecessors. But she must continue to go forward, not attempt to step backward, where she will only trip. If her strengths should be the, or even a, factor in Clinton not being reelected, it would be shameful, but at least she can make significant contributions to the country and be a far better role model, than if she crumbles under the pressure of the combined forces of her adversaries and some of her husband's reelection advisors.

15 FEBRUARY 1999

Business scene

Jordan is to receive 15 million over the next three years from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The bank says it is to help it in the reform of the economy. The IMF is also providing technical assistance in the privatization of the economy and in the reform of the legal system. The IMF is also providing technical assistance in the reform of the legal system.

The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has announced that it will increase the reserve ratio of deposits from 15 per cent to 20 per cent. The CBJ says that this move is necessary to maintain the stability of the Jordanian dinar. The CBJ also announced that it will increase the reserve ratio of foreign currency deposits from 10 per cent to 15 per cent.

The Jordanian Textile and Apparel Industry Association (JTAA) has announced that it will launch a campaign to promote Jordanian textile and apparel products. The JTAA says that this move is necessary to increase the competitiveness of Jordanian textile and apparel products in the international market.

The Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The ABC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Arab banking market.

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has announced that it will provide a loan of 100 million dollars to the Government of Jordan. The IDB says that this loan is for the purpose of financing the development of the Jordanian economy.

The Jordanian Telecommunications Corporation (JTC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JTC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian telecommunications market.

The Jordanian Petroleum Corporation (JPC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JPC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian petroleum market.

The Jordanian Real Estate Corporation (JREC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JREC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian real estate market.

The Jordanian Insurance Corporation (JIC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JIC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian insurance market.

The Jordanian Shipping Corporation (JSC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JSC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian shipping market.

The Jordanian Airline Corporation (JAC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JAC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian airline market.

The Jordanian Hotel Corporation (JHC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JHC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian hotel market.

The Jordanian Restaurant Corporation (JRC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JRC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian restaurant market.

The Jordanian Retail Corporation (JRT) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JRT says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian retail market.

The Jordanian Wholesale Corporation (JWC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JWC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian wholesale market.

The Jordanian Manufacturing Corporation (JMC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JMC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian manufacturing market.

The Jordanian Service Corporation (JSC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JSC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian service market.

The Jordanian Construction Corporation (JCC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JCC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian construction market.

The Jordanian Transportation Corporation (JTC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JTC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian transportation market.

The Jordanian Communication Corporation (JCC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JCC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian communication market.

The Jordanian Energy Corporation (JEC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JEC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian energy market.

The Jordanian Water Corporation (JWC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JWC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian water market.

The Jordanian Waste Management Corporation (JWMC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JWMC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian waste management market.

The Jordanian Recycling Corporation (JRC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JRC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian recycling market.

The Jordanian Environmental Corporation (JEC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JEC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian environmental market.

The Jordanian Health Corporation (JHC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JHC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian health market.

The Jordanian Education Corporation (JEC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JEC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian education market.

The Jordanian Culture Corporation (JCC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JCC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian culture market.

The Jordanian Sports Corporation (JSC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JSC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian sports market.

The Jordanian Entertainment Corporation (JEC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JEC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian entertainment market.

The Jordanian Media Corporation (JMC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JMC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian media market.

The Jordanian Information Corporation (JIC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JIC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian information market.

The Jordanian Technology Corporation (JTC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JTC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian technology market.

The Jordanian Science Corporation (JSC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JSC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian science market.

The Jordanian Arts Corporation (JAC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JAC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian arts market.

The Jordanian Literature Corporation (JLC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JLC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian literature market.

The Jordanian Music Corporation (JMC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JMC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian music market.

The Jordanian Film Corporation (JFC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JFC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian film market.

The Jordanian Theater Corporation (JTC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JTC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian theater market.

The Jordanian Dance Corporation (JDC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JDC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian dance market.

The Jordanian Circus Corporation (JCC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JCC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian circus market.

The Jordanian Puppetry Corporation (JPC) has announced that it will launch a new line of services for its customers. The JPC says that this move is necessary to meet the needs of its customers and to increase its competitiveness in the Jordanian puppetry market.

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Business scene

Jordan is to receive JD 295 million over the next three years from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The bank says that this is to help it take advantage of the economic opportunities that the peace process is creating. Jordan is undergoing an IMF reform program for the liberalization of its economy and for selling off a major part of its state industries to the private sector.

The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has introduced JD 15 million Certificate of Deposits into the market. These are for periods of three and six months. The highest prices for the acceptance of these deposits was JD 2.50 percent for three months at or 9.50 percent for six months. The CBJ has signed agreements to repurchase CDs and European treasury bills at an annual interest rate of 10 percent.

The Amman Insurance Co. has just held its first meeting. The company's capital is JD 2 million. The Jordan-German Co. will also hold its first meeting at the end of this month. The paid up capital of this company will be JD 5 million, three million of which is through public subscription. Presently there are 23 insurance companies in the market.

The Jordan Textile Co. sold more than JD 12 million of textiles to the local and export markets. The company made more than a million dinars in profit and will distribute up to 22 percent in dividends to its shareholders. Similarly, sales for the Al Zai Clothing Co. have amounted to JD 1.73 million.

The Arab Banking Corporation, the mother company of the Arab Banking Group, which is based in Bahrain, realized a net profit of 10 percent for 1995. This is a \$116 million profit over the \$1.5 million profit for 1994. The gross operational profit increased by 18 percent from \$225 million in 1994 to \$266 million in 1995.

The Islamic Development Bank Jeddah of agreed to finance the Aqaba communication project at JD 6.5 million. Sources at the Telecommunications Corp. said the project includes the setting up of a new 6,000 line switchboard at the southern coast of Aqaba, and the expansion of the existing switchboard by 5,000 lines.

Foreign Exchange

Wednesday, 14 FEBRUARY

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US Dollar	0.7080	0.7100
British Pound	1.0821	1.0875
Japanese Yen	0.4800	0.4824
Swiss Franc	0.5887	0.5916
German Mark	0.1395	0.1402
Italian Lira	0.6631	0.6664
Spanish Peseta	0.4288	0.4309
French Franc	0.0450	0.0452

Irbid is set to witness greater economic development in '96

AMMAN (Star)—Irbid is the second largest governorate in the country after Amman. In educational, tourist, industrial, and transport terms, Irbid is traditionally named the 'bridge of the north.' As a border city (with Syria and Israel), it deserves further plans of development in all fields.

Its Governor, Mr. Eid Qataneh said that the Irbid governorate's budget for 1996 is about JD 74,368,000. According to the present development plans, the following areas of the Governorate's activities will be covered.

Tourism and antiquities: about JD 1.12 million are allocated to promote tourism in that region. Among others, the rejuvenation of the old Resthouse in Um Qeis, building a new rest-house in Hammar, Abu Thabaleh, development of

Tabaqat Fahl region, establishment of a Museum of folklore in Ramtha, expansion of tourism services to the archaeological area of Shalaleh, and the reconstruction and conversion of the Irbid's old prison into a museum, are given priority.

Rural affairs and environment: about JD 290,000 are set aside to buy a lot of land for the reconstruction of the Ramtha directorate. Other buildings of the same category are envisaged for Bani Kinaneh and Ramtha districts. The directorate building in Irbid itself has to be accomplished.

Public works and housing: an amount of JD 16.7 million are taken from the budget to cover the expenses in these fields. Of this amount, a JD 7,337,000 will go to building the proposed roads: Ramtha triangle road; Nu'aymeh triangle road; Kufr Yuba-Deir Abi Said; Irbid-Ajloun; Irbid-Al Himma; Irbid-Al Husn; Amman; Irbid-Zarqa; Irbid-Mazra; Shouneh-Abu Ubeideh; Irbid-Maqarin; Irbid-Mughayer-Shajara; Irbid-Huwara-Ramtha.

Also, JD 1.3 million of the above amount will be allotted to the supply of an asphalt mix to the maintenance of roads in Qoura, Ramtha, western Irbid, northern Ghor, Taybeh, Mazar, and Bani Kinaneh.

About JD 2 million are allotted for road construction and improvement in all districts of that part of the country. Rural roads construction has got JD 2 million from the budget, while JD 0.6 million is taken for the road maintenance and preventive measures, and JD 0.25 million for inter-city roads.

Agriculture is allotted JD 5 million this year. Counting on this sector's contribution to the national economy, the Governorate has plans to supply agriculture with new and modern equipment. They cover veterinary labs, vehicles of artificial inoculation, herbicides and insecticides, agricultural stores, veterinary clinics, agricultural labs, and an irrigation network in Baqoura. About JD 1,693,000 are designated for the development of the Yarmouk basin, JD 190,000 for agricultural stations, and JD 1,987,000 for fostering and protection.

In the field of water and irrigation, about JD 13,931,000 are appropriated for buying different machinery and equipment; maintenance of pumping stations, the reconstruction of water conveyors and networks

around and the governorate. A 6000 cubic meter aquifer and 300 cubic metre dam/reservoirs are also planned for this year construction.

The supply sector will get JD 1.171 million, while education is allotted JD 18,497,000, and higher education JD 873,000.

Health utilities and services are appropriated JD 9,869,000. Among other things, the funds will cover the financing of equipment purchases for hospitals, clinics, and health centers. New psychological hospital is to be constructed in Irbid at a cost of JD 1 million, as well as several health centers in the rural areas. A plane landing lot near Princess Basma and Princess Baderat hospitals is also designed.

Royal Wings takes to the skies

AMMAN (Star)—Last Saturday the Jordanian Royal Wings Co., launched its first domestic trip from Amman to Aqaba using a Canadian made aircraft (Dash-8) with a 50-passenger capacity.

The newly-born Royal Wings is a local and regional airline. It is operating under the umbrella of the Arab Wings which is 99 percent owned by Royal Jordanian and one percent by the savings fund of the employees of RJ.

The goal behind the establishment of Royal Wings is "to serve the new era of peace," said Mr. Ahid Quntar, the general manager of Royal Wings. "Regional tourism is the future of the region, where the Middle East will be major tourist attraction," he added.

"The region has nearly completed building the tourism infrastructure, something that demands a company involved in domestic and regional transport with fair prices and using medium sized planes."

Initially, Royal Wings will operate two daily flights from Amman to Aqaba at 7:00 am from Marka Airport, with a return trip from Aqaba at 8:40 am, arriving back in Amman at 9:40 am. The second flight is at 8:00 pm, with the return trip from Aqaba at 9:40 pm, arriving in Amman at 10:40 pm.

The one-way ticket rate is JD 20, but if passengers wish to return on the same day, the two-way ticket will be JD 35.

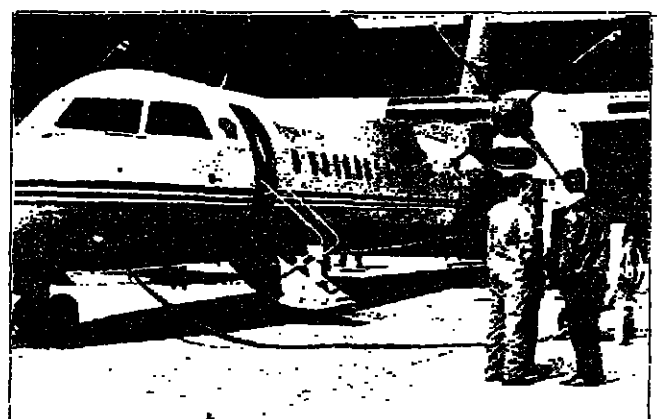
"These prices do not cover the cost of operations, but

these rates aim at encouraging domestic tourism," said Mr. Quntar.

The company is planning to launch five weekly flights from Amman to Tel Aviv. "In the near future, we will expand our

plan to cover Larnaka, Damascus and Beirut."

The marketing policy of Royal Wings is based on cooperation with Royal Jordanian as the two companies complement each other.



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Jordanian exports for 1995 shot up says ACI

AMMAN (Star)—Jordanian exports increased by 26 percent in 1995, according to the latest study carried out by the Amman Chamber of Industry. Exports also became more varied, with Jordanian industrial commodities reaching more than 100 countries.

The study pointed out that in 1980, national exports made up JD 120.1 million. By 1989 this figure reached JD 534.1 million. This meant a three-fold increase, or an annual rise of 34.5 percent. This increase continued in the 1990s despite regional problems.

By 1995, national exports reached JD 1 billion. The study points out the between 1990 and 1995, exports grew by an average of 11 percent annually.

In 1995, however, exports increased by about 26 percent. According to industrial sectors which included medical supplies, plastics, chemicals engineering, construction, paper agricultural products and packaging, total sales for 1995 were JD 815.6 million compared to JD 389.4 million in 1994. This meant an increase of 38.7 percent.

Most Jordanian exports go to Arab countries. In 1995 exports to these countries amounted to JD 514.8 million, about (61) percent of total exports. Iraq took the lion's share with 67 percent of Jordanian exports headed there. Next was Syria at 7.4 percent, then Saudi Arabia at seven percent, followed by the UAE at 4.1 percent, then Libya at 2.9 percent and finally Lebanon at 2.1 percent.

The next category for Jordanian exports was the Asian countries. In 1995 they took 17.2 percent of exports at JD 140.45 million. These countries include Japan, India, Singapore, Malaysia, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Iran and the newly independent Central Asian Republics.

Of these countries, India was top of the list for Jordanian exports at 87.3 million dinars, which is 62.2 percent of total

exports to Asian countries and 11 percent of Jordanian exports. Next comes Singapore with JD 20.4 million and 14.5 percent. Indonesia comes third at JD 12.7 million and nine percent of the total.

The European Union imported JD 105.2 million which is about 13 percent of the total and come third, with Germany importing the most.

The principal vocation of the EIB is to promote balanced economic development in the European Union by contributing to a reduction in the disparities between the various regions of Member States. The volume of loans that have been allocated is such that the bank is now the largest financial institution worldwide. Over the last five years, it has devoted over 80 billion ECUs to funding investment in the European Union. In transport, telecommunications, power production and distribution, environmental protection and industry. In 1994, EIB loans amounted to five percent of all new investments, or about 18 billion ECUs.

Within the framework of the Union's external cooperation

policy, the EIB can intervene in 130 countries in particular in states of the Mediterranean basin, where it first started working in 1960. In this area, it grants loans drawing on its own resources and manages European Union budgetary resources on a mandatory basis. In accordance with the allocation of responsibilities between the European Union and EIB, the latter institution focuses on productive sectors, infrastructure that are capable of generating revenue and environmental protection, and more specifically private sector development. Its work which is carried out in close collaboration with the European Commission, complements the non-refundable aid allocated by the European Union.

With loans totalling 3.3 billion ECU between 1992-1996 (2.3 billion ECUs of which was directed to beneficiary states under the terms of bilateral financial protocols) allocated to countries along the Mediterranean shore and to its immediate east, the EIB has played a major role in implementing the New Mediterranean Policy and its priority objectives, which include support for the Middle East peace process. The EIB has already made a major contribution to promoting economic development in the region by investing in infrastructure, power management systems and environmental protection in Egypt, Jordan and

Israel. A "horizontal," or "non-protocol," mechanism has been set up, with a budget of 1.8 million ECU destined to serve the whole of the Mediterranean basin. It will be used to fund infrastructure spending of regional scope and environmental protection projects. EIB loans in the latter field benefit from a three percent bonus, financed by European Union budgetary resources. About two thirds of this package have so far been allocated.

Within the framework of the "horizontal" mechanism, EIB loans have helped to support projects in Morocco (telecommunications and connection of the national grid to the European Union grid), Tunisia and Turkey (coastal protection structures), Egypt (industrial cooperation), Algeria (gas pipeline linking the Maghreb and Europe), Jordan (telecommunications and management of water resources) and Lebanon (repairs to Beirut airport and air-traffic control equipment). In addition, the bank has encouraged industrial cooperation by setting up credit facilities in Egypt, Jordan and Morocco. Moreover, it has supported MIDOR (Middle East Oil Refineries), an Israeli and Egyptian joint venture, which plans to build a new petro refinery in the customs-free area of the port of Alexandria.

Over the last five years, the EIB has authorized loans worth over 2 billion ECUs to

countries in the Mediterranean basin, 730 million ECUs of which has gone to the Middle East, mainly in support of infrastructure spending.

Since the "Declaration of Principles" between the PLO and Israel of September 1993, the EIB has been closely involved in preparing the "Emergency Aid Programme" set up by international donors to help Gaza and the West Bank, complementing a large-scale program of grants by the European Union. The program plans to allocate 100 million ECUs per year in grants for housing, education, law and order enforcement and water and sewerage projects. It has been estimated that in 1994 the European Union as a whole—in other words the European Commission and the various Member States—committed over 300 million ECU in grants, which represents over half of all overseas aid commitments to Gaza and the West Bank. The EIB provides financial assistance and logistics support to the donors' Secretariat, which is based at the World Bank and coordinates all international aid to this area. In addition, the EIB pays for the temporary allocation of personnel to the Secretariat, out of its own budget.

Med News

Company, the parent company of Popeyes Chicken and Biscuits, Churches Chicken and Texas Chicken. has expansion plans that are not limited only to the Middle East. Both Churches and Popeyes are aggressively expanding into other international markets, including Europe and the Pacific Rim. AFC has commitments to build more than 250 Popeyes and 300 Churches Texas Chicken restaurants in seven countries.

America's Favorite Chicken Company is the world's second-largest quick service chicken company, and with its 1994 system wide sales of \$1.2 billion and projected 1995 sales of \$1.4 billion, AFC is one of the 10 largest food-service operators of restaurants outside the United States.

EIB seeks cooperation with Med countries

THE EUROPEAN Investment Bank (EIB) was founded in 1958 by the Treaty of Rome. It acts as the long term funding institution for the European Union. Although its work focuses on the EU, the EIB also takes part in the implementation of financial aspects of the Union's cooperation policy with non-member states in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, under the terms of the Lome Convention, as well as with countries in the Mediterranean basin, Latin America, Asia and Central and Eastern Europe that have signed cooperation agreements with the EU.

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MARKET WATCH

10-13 February

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
↑ Nayzak Dies & Moulds 5.71 ↑ El-Zay Ready Wear 3.57 ↓ In'l Textile Manufacturing 3.85 ↓ Arab Bank Insurance 2.33 ↓ Philadelphia Bank 1.48	↑ Philadelphia Bank 4.51 ↑ In'l Textile Manufacturing 4.00 ↓ El-Zay Ready Wear 2.50 ↓ Jordan Pipes 3.51 ↓ United Oil & Chemical Ind 3.36 ↓ Middle East Complex 2.53	↑ Jordan Bank 1.41 ↑ National Plastic Factory 1.29 ↑ Real Estate Investment 1.05 ↑ Nayzak Dies & Moulds 5.41 ↑ Jordan Yogurt 5.10 ↓ JIMCO 5.00	↑ Al Razy Pharm. 1.31 ↑ National Industry 1.03 ↑ Jordan Power 0.58 ↓ El-Zay Ready Wear 4.58 ↓ United Investment 3.45 ↓ Philadelphia Bank 3.03
General Price Pointer 155,540	155,630	155,120	145,800
Trade Volume 798551	882874	1245906	410476
Stock Volume 413969	359982	581309	256105
Highest Traded Stocks			
↑ Arab Bank 182,350	↑ United for Land Transport 196,110	↑ Philadelphia Bank 370,363	↑ Jordan Power 121,094

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949

Popeyes goes to Qatar

ATLANTA—The Atlanta-based America's Favorite Chicken Company (AFC) announced that the company has signed an agreement to open four Popeyes Chicken and Biscuits restaurants in Qatar. The four new restaurants, which will be developed over the next three years, will all be in Doha.

This latest entry into the Middle East is part of AFC's aggressive plan to develop the region. AFC has commitments to develop 125 Popeyes Chicken and Biscuits restaurants in Egypt, six in Lebanon with an option to develop four in Syria, six in the United Emirates and four restaurants in the Gaza and West Bank.

Popeyes Chicken and Biscuits has seven restaurants in

Saudi Arabia and Jordan with 30 additional commitments for restaurants over the next four years. The AFC office in Dubai will provide on-site operational support for the new and existing franchises. AFC on-site support will come from AFC's director of operations Nimer Al Bawh.

"The establishment of a franchise in Qatar is one more piece of an entire Middle Eastern strategy," director of international development, Riccardo J. Bisio, said. "We will see a tremendous amount of development in the Middle East. 1996 is going to be a very exciting year with many development plans."

Nasser Al Rabbani is the franchisee that will develop and operate the new Popeyes res-

taurants in Qatar. The Al Rabbani family is one of the top business families in Qatar.

Popeyes Chicken and Biscuits, which specializes in New Orleans-style spicy and mildly seasoned fried chicken, roasted chicken, homemade biscuits and red beans and rice, has 333 restaurants internationally. Middle Eastern restaurants will be built using the chain's new image design and logo featuring a bright contemporary look that highlights the internationally known dancing Popeyes Chicken and Biscuits letters and a palladian architectural design. The first Qatar location will be a high-visibility, free-standing location, which will serve to spearhead Popeyes entry into that state.

America's Favorite Chicken

Palestine Post

Edited by Marwan Al Asmar

● Mr Yasser Arafat was sworn in as the first elected Palestinian President and head of the Palestine National Authority last Monday. With his hand on the Holy Koran, he said, "I swear before God I will be sincere to the country and preserve the Constitution, law and interests of the Palestinian people."



Land confiscation continues

● Israel has continued to confiscate about 600 hectares of Palestinian land each month since the Declaration of Principles was signed with the PLO in September 1993. This was according to a report released by the Arab League Secretariat which will be presented to the Council of the League when it meets on 13 March. The report says that Israel continues to expel Palestinians from their land so as to complicate any solution that could be reached with the Palestinians. The report says that Israel's strategy today is to build more settlements especially in Jerusalem so as to give it a distinct Jewish character. The report says that the Israeli government is going back on its word by saying that the expansion of settlements that are now taking place is carried out by settlers or private developers. The government has frozen the funding of "political" settlements since 1992, but this decision didn't include funding settlements in Jerusalem or the Jordan valley. The Arab League report says that the Israeli authorities have a number of ways to continue to confiscate lands like forging the dates of the confiscation, branding certain plots as "security areas," for "winding roads," for settlements, or in turning certain areas into nature reserves.

Teachers on strike

● About 300 teachers went on strike in Ramallah last week. The protest was against their low wages. The strikers, who wanted a 40 percent wage increase, demonstrated outside the offices of the Palestinian Ministry of Education in Ramallah. Mahmood Taha, one of the officials of the Teachers Union warned that demonstrations would spread throughout the West Bank if the teachers' demands are not met. There are 15,000 teachers in the territories. The Minister of Education of the Palestine National Authority Mr Yasser Amr promised that he would look into the teachers' demands.

Gold gets the ax

● The Palestine National Authority warned jewelers and goldsmiths that they would confiscate their gold jewelry if it is not stamped officially by the PNA. A statement issued by the Palestinian Ministry of Economics and Commerce stated that all jewelry shops and goldsmiths must apply to the offices of the ministry to receive the trademarks and design registration. The statement said jewelers have till the first of May to comply with this order.

Blood and gore: the trademark of the Israeli soldier

The 'hot' story in the Egyptian press according to the *Jerusalem Post* was that Egyptian prisoners of war held in POW camps in Israel were murdered and their bodies sold. Writing in *Al-Ahram* daily, Dr Said Lavandi reports on a conversation with a Jewish merchant in Paris, who told him that he had within his body a kidney that was transplanted from the body of an Egyptian POW. According to Lavandi's account of what the merchant said, the camps were used as a market for human parts. The report said that Israeli soldiers guarding the camps used Egyptian POWs as human targets both to get rid of them and because they received a high price for their body parts.

Gibriel may give up armed struggle

● The leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command said he might give up the armed struggle if Syria signs a peace treaty with Israel. He told the Associated Press "that we will continue our struggle but we might be forced to transfer our military struggle into a political struggle. He said that he will not accept an invitation by the Israelis to visit the territories that are controlled by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA)."

Numbering Gaza!

● In what can be described as part of a move to beautify and organize Gaza, the PNA has started officially to number the commercial streets. It is understood that this is part of a wider step to number commercial streets throughout the self-rule areas. The director of the Technical Administration in the Gaza Municipality Mr Zaher Khell said the numbering of the streets will be accompanied sign posts. In some cases he added that some roads will be renamed. He continued that this is part of a wider project in Gaza Municipality that will be carried out in conjunction with postal services and the transport authorities.

Salameh says he is no spy

● Mr Muhammad Rajab Salameh, the man who was expelled to Jordan by Israel last week, flatly denied that he was spying for Iran. Salameh, 44 and a member of the Palestine National Council said he was never a spy at any time. He said he was tortured by the Israeli authorities for 90 days before he was expelled. During his torture, he was only allowed to sleep for two hours every three days. An Israeli military spokesman later alleged that the professor of philosophy from Beit Jallah admitted that he transferred maps and photographs to the Iranian authorities. *Al-Quds* daily quoted the Associated Press in Amman as saying that, once in Jordan, Salameh was not even questioned by the authorities despite the fact that Israel claims that he was also spying on Jordan.

A guide for the Israeli tourist

● A new Israeli booklet of "do's" and "don'ts" is being distributed to Israelis who wish to visit Jordan using their own cars. The booklet instructs tourists to plan their travel according to the official touristic sites. It says that Israelis must stay away from what it calls problem areas such as refugee camps or go near mosques especially during the Friday prayer and especially the Al Hussein Mosque in Amman. The booklet also urges tourists to refrain from going to tourist sites after dark except if the tour is organized, not to wander off to far away places and to stay in groups. For the individuals who wish to go on their own they are urged to submit a report of their plan to the tourist police, because all the tourist places in Jordan are under their control. Tourists are urged not to speak in Hebrew in the street or the hotel and not to reveal their Israeli identity. Tourists are also urged to be conservative in their dress.

By Barton Gellman
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, soaring in opinion polls and convinced that achieving peace with Syria will take too long, has called for elections on 28 May. Such a call amounts to a decisive test of Israel's course toward reconciliation with its Arab neighbors.

The prospect has unnerved an opposition still reeling from the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin last November and the backlash it provoked against the right. Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu, who argued for two years that the Labor Party-led government had no mandate for its concessions to Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization, now describes the early elections as a cynical effort by Peres to "kidnap" a second term.

Peres, who earlier made a joint appearance with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, later said elections would be held in May. He added "we shall ask for a mandate to continue our negotiations," and confidants have announced he will seek to hold a ballot on 28 May. Christopher was attempting to maintain momentum in his quest for a Middle East peace settlement when he was in the region last week.

Calling an election remains a risk for Peres and a disappointment for the Clinton administration, which hoped Peres would use his full remaining term—until 29 October—to close a deal with Syria. Although Peres leads Netanyahu by 16 to 20 points in opinion surveys, pollsters warn him the gap will narrow sharply before election day. Peres often says

polls are like perfume, better smelled than drunk, and four times in his long career he has led the Labor Party to defeat or deadlock in elections.

Likud, however, seems to have greater reason to fear. In a sign of substantial concern, Netanyahu announced his party will form a united front with the rival Tsomet Party. The arrangement—under which Likud gives up eight choice prospects for legislative seats and Tsomet backs Netanyahu for prime minister—amounted to an expensive purchase of Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan's withdrawal from the premier's race.

Netanyahu described it as a joining of forces by two parties "concerned about the increasing erosion, the way the country is going down the drain." Peres, mocking the announcement, said the two men "are setting off together; they just don't know where to."

The Likud staked its political program on opposition to the negotiating formula backed by the Labor Party of returning captured Arab lands to the PLO or Syria in exchange for a peace treaty. Now it is divided

down the middle on whether and how to accommodate to an unfolding deal that has already seen the withdrawal of Israel's army from the West Bank's Arab population centers and the election of Yasser Arafat as Palestinian leader.

Most Israelis support the deal thus far, and Netanyahu is trying to shift his party toward the pragmatic center. He wants a new platform that would recognize the Palestinian National Authority as the legitimate governing body in the formerly occupied territory it now controls—but would draw the line at formal statehood, or some of his party's heavyweights, notably Binyamin



Minister Haim Ramon, an experienced Labor operative, has begun negotiations with other

parties for the May election. This year's election is the first in which Israelis will cast separate ballots for prime minister and parliament, and the political system is uncertain of the ramifications of the change.

But Netanyahu appears convinced it is worth paying a significant price to avoid competition from the right. The "united state" by which he achieved Eitan's withdrawal was greeted with consternation in the Likud rank and file, not least because it will probably cost some Likud legislators their seats. The ideological fit of the parties is imperfect as well because of Tsomet's hard line on the peace process and its hostility toward ultra-Orthodox Jews.

"The minute you include a party that is declared anti-religious you have a problem," warned Rabbi Aryeh Gamliel, a member of parliament for an ultra-Orthodox party. Shas, which has swung between Labor and Likud.

By Doug Struck
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

NABLUS, West Bank—The old priest stroked his white beard, and scowled at the ceiling, as though reading in the peeling plaster the rebuke of generations of Samaritan high priests.

"They will say of me, it was in his time that the Torah scrolls were stolen," said the Rev. Yousef Abu Al Hasan, 77. Two antique manuscripts stolen from the tiny band of survivors of the biblical Samaritans have reminded them of their vulnerability. And a ransom demand for millions of dollars has reminded them of their powerlessness.

"It's not a question of money. It's a question of stealing part of our spiritual treasure," said Benjamin Tsedaka, a leader of the 583 Samaritans who remain of a nation that in the sixth century exceeded 1 million.

The theft has added to a saga of Samaritan artifacts stolen, sold, or lost over the centuries. The Samaritans have managed to keep only a few ancient texts.

The rest—sold or stolen—were scattered in the netherworld of the illicit antiquities trade, surfacing in museums and private collections from St. Petersburg, Russia to Washington, D.C.

Desperate efforts to retrieve the latest stolen texts, written by hand on the skins of ritually sacrificed lambs or goats, have led the Samaritans into a clandestine meeting with thieves, appeals to world leaders, and a political union with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

"We have no power to fight for our goals," Tsedaka said. "And no government in the area has done anything to force the thieves to turn back the manuscripts."

For 3,000 years, the Samaritans have studied and copied their Torah—the first five books of the Bible—from their Nablus base near the mountain they consider holy, Mount Gerizim.

Mount Gerizim is a hard and cold mountain, with few trees to blunt the sharp winter wind. The Samaritans have built modern stone homes there, but many still move down to the warmer creases of Nablus, at the foot of the mountain, in the winter.

Since Biblical times, they have feuded with the Jews over theological questions and over whether Jerusalem or Mount Gerizim is most holy. They already were outcasts when Jesus shocked his fellow Jews by drinking water drawn by a Samaritan woman and spinning parables around the Samaritans to teach brotherly love.

At times, they were nearly extinguished as a people. In 1917, only 146 remained. They survived by adapting with chameleon resilience. About half the community left Nablus to build a neighborhood in an industrial suburb of Tel Aviv, Israel, where they are indistinguishable from Israelis. They are citizens, serve in the Israeli Army and speak Hebrew. The others, in Nablus, have kept Arab ways, language and Jews of their neighbors on the West Bank.

Samaritans desperate to retrieve stolen scrolls

Yet the two groups consider themselves inseparable. They cling to their religion, its strict kosher rules and ancient rites of worship. And they cling to their pride as the "true Israelites" who remained in the Holy Land since ancient times while Jews wandered in exile.

The two communities of Samaritans reunite annually at the highlight of their religious year, Passover. Forty sheep are ritually sacrificed and cooked for a feast on Mount Gerizim.

Last March, three strangers stopped in the Samaritan synagogue in Nablus on the Saturday before Passover. The Samaritans, accustomed to tourists, thought little of the strangers.

Later, they believe, the strangers came back and broke into the synagogue. Crossing the large open room, furnished only with carpets for prayers, they threw back the purple curtain of the altar—the "Holy of Holies"—and opened an ornate wooden cabinet.

Discarding the printed copies, they took the two most valuable items they found: a scroll of the Samaritan Torah in an inscribed copper case, and another handwritten Torah on parchment bound in red covers, both said to be 700 years old.

The thieves slipped the Torah scroll from the case and left the metal decoration on steps near the synagogue. It was a costly choice: the casing, made in 1521, is worth more than the scroll.

It might have fetched several million dollars, Tsedaka said. The Samaritan writings are prized pieces. Their version of the Bible has 4,000 to 6,000 differences from the version used by the Jews, valued variations. The Samaritans continued to write in the ancient script, unlike even the Jews, who

switched to Aramaic lettering in their old texts. To even the earliest Western visitors, the odd, boxy letters evoked the ancients. Some collectors bought the old texts from Samaritans, others stole. Many had help from the Samaritans themselves—a Russian Jew named Abraham Firkovich wrote of visiting Nablus in 1864 and buying four heavy sacks full of handwritten Samaritan manuscripts from a Samaritan "engaged in stealing from the sanctuary."

"For the last 400 years, our community was so poor their spiritual treasures just for bread," said Tsedaka, who has founded the Samaritan Studies Institute in Holon, near Tel Aviv, and tracks Samaritan antiquities.

The result of this sad story is that we have 4,000 ancient Samaritan manuscripts all over the world. And the Samaritans themselves only have 35 Torah



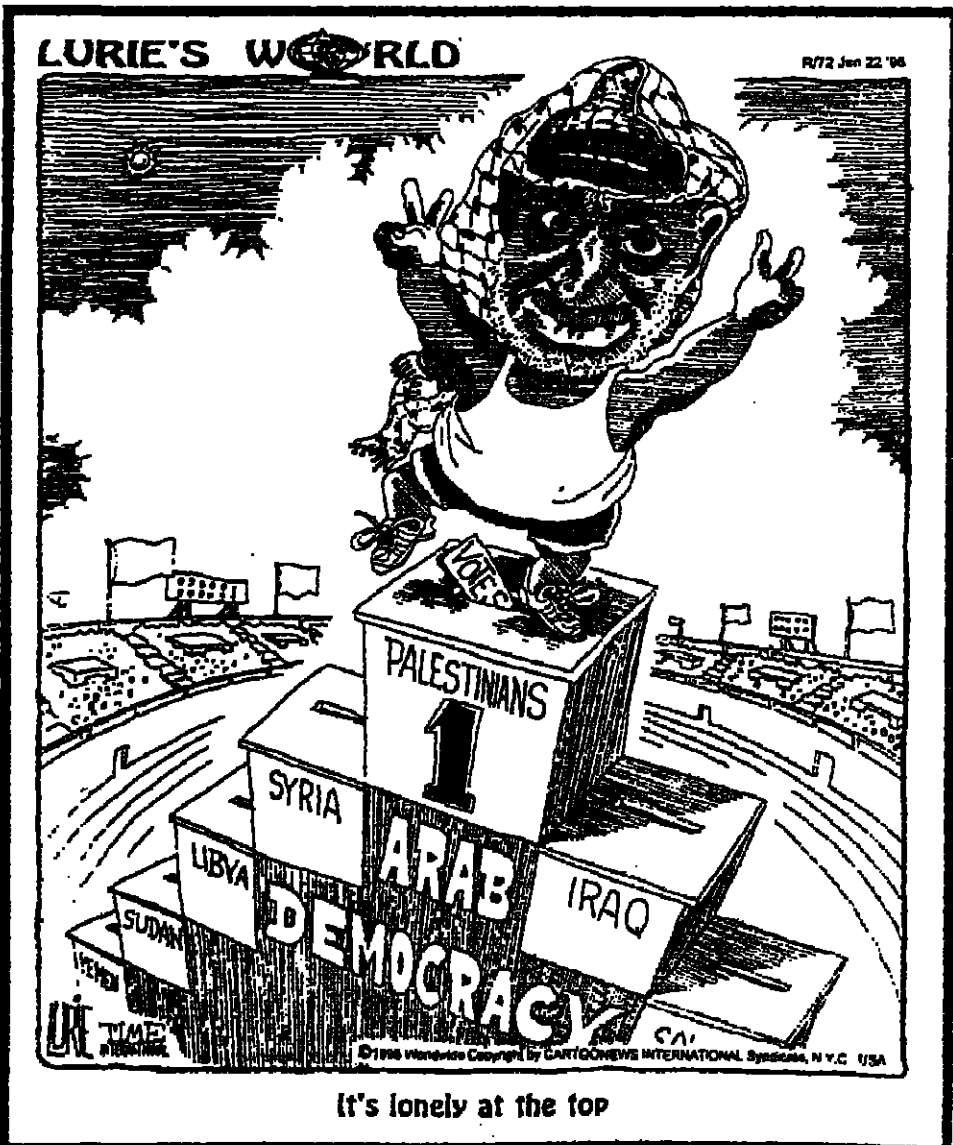
Palestine is a historic landmine for archaeological digs

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It's lonely at the top



● The management of Hotel InterContinental Jordan held its annual Ifar reception for members of the local and international press. Reporters for the international television networks also attended.

a N. Ireland talks ended when concessions turned into conditions

By Fred Barbash
La Times-Washington Post

LONDON—There was no game plan for Northern Ireland, no secret deal, no honest broker and no shuttle diplomacy. The peace process that began 18 months ago—amid deeply conflicting emotions of hope and doubt—was grounded fundamentally on a blind faith that as long as the parties could be kept talking, violence might cease.

As it turned out, there was no such thing as a simple approach. For longer than anyone had envisaged, this thin-reed technique seemed to work. But there was a danger in it as well, the obverse side: What would happen when the conversation stopped, which is effectively what happened a few weeks ago?

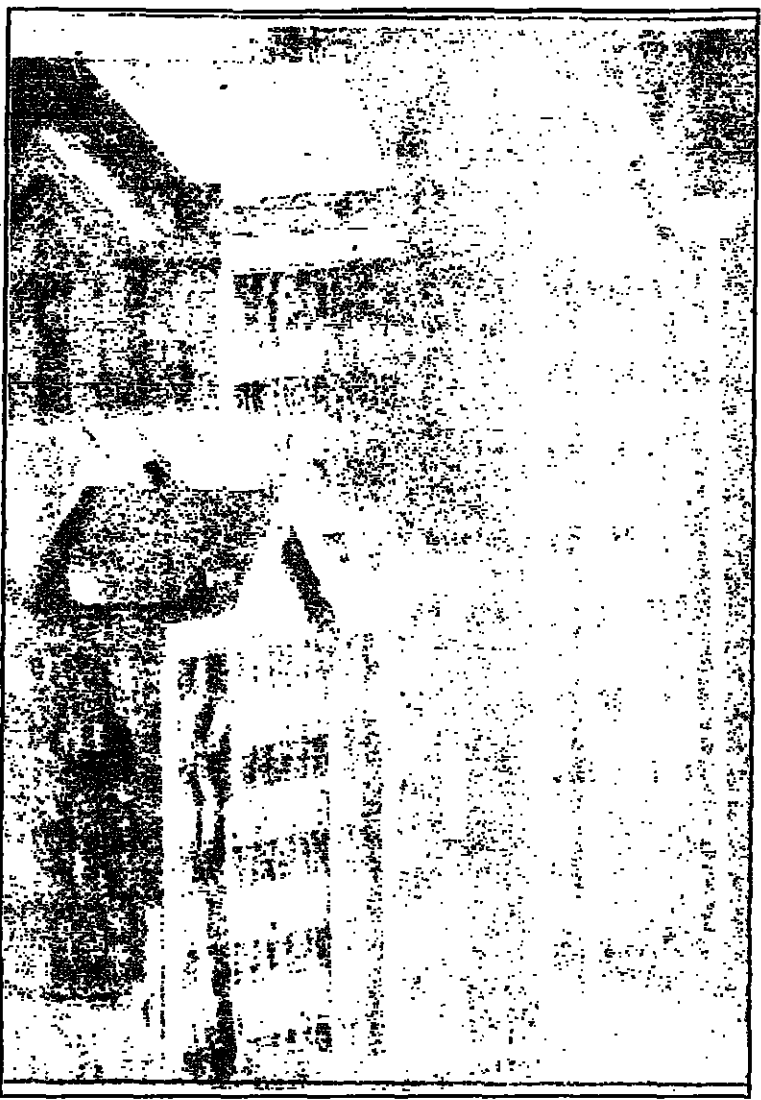
The answer came last Friday, when the Irish Republican Army bombed London's largest office and residential development, killing two people and injuring dozens. The blast also dealt a potentially lethal blow to attempts to resolve Northern Ireland's generation of "troubles"—a peace process hailed by President Clinton on his visit here in December as an example to the world.

How did this symbol of hope so suddenly become, once again, a symbol of horror?

While blame for the bomb rests squarely with the IRA, responsibility for the lack of progress in the talks belongs to politicians on all sides both here and in Northern Ireland. The talking stopped because they placed hurdles in its way; the music died because the time became "conditions" rather than concessions.

And that happened, most likely, because between the IRA cease-fire declaration on 31 August 1994, and now, political conditions changed. For different reasons, officials crucial to the talks grew politically weaker rather than stronger. They reacted by becoming more rather than less intransigent. By the end, they had backed themselves into corners from which they were unwilling or unable to escape.

Ingredients that have sustained other negotiations in other conflicts were absent: There was no outside third-



Damage caused by IRA bombing in London's Docklands business district

party broker, who by virtue of trust or fear could "knock heads together." There was no equivalent of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, who could step in for his own reasons and call the shots for one party or the other.

While many observe the tragic conflict in Northern Ireland, it presents no threat to global or regional stability and attracts only intermittent interest from the rest of the world. There is no oil in Ireland—north or south.

The troubles of Northern Ireland are rooted deep in history. Britain controlled Ireland for some 300 years, suppressing Catholicism and Irish nationalism by force.

After years of conflict, Britain withdrew from the predominantly Catholic southern 26 counties in the 1920s but retained control of the majority Protestant six counties in the north of the island, now known as Northern Ireland.

The partition fired up two opposing movements: Irish nationalism, or republicanism, which favored reunification with the republic to the south, and "unionism," or "loyalism," which seeks to keep the region as part of the United Kingdom.

The former was comprised largely of Catholics, who regarded themselves as the victims of British and Protestant oppression; the latter was made up primarily of Protestants.

Both communities harbor violent paramilitary organizations that wreaked havoc in the province for the past 25 years with fit-for-terrorist strikes. Both also maintain above-board political parties.

The "peace process" that began 18 months ago was initiated largely by the British and Irish governments, with considerable help from John Hume, leader of Northern Ire-

land's nationalist Social Democratic and Labor Party, and Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, the legal political wing of the IRA.

Adams in particular managed to persuade the IRA to declare the cease-fire after convincing them that the nationalist movement had gotten nowhere using violence, and that other means might prove more productive.

At the beginning, there appeared to be some flexibility on all sides. Negotiating "positions" seemed to be just that: positions subject to negotiation.

British Prime Minister John Major put aside initial demands that the IRA and Sinn Fein formally declare the cease-fire permanent as a precondition to the start of formal high-level contacts between the British government and Sinn Fein.

Major also put his name to a framework document with the government of Ireland that proposed some ideas once considered unthinkable in London, such as allowing the government in Dublin to have a formal, if limited, voice in the governance of Northern Ireland.

Unionist parties representing primarily Protestants, while loathing that notion, seemed willing to talk about the document, which also contained a promise that the future of Northern Ireland would be determined by the consent of the majority. Sinn Fein, while opposing that idea, also appeared ready to proceed.

The process started to get bogged down about seven months ago, with Major's demand that before formal talks could start, Sinn Fein and the IRA would have to begin decommissioning its arsenal of weapons and explosives.

Sinn Fein refused, saying it had proved its commitment to the peace process, and that decommissioning should be a subject for talks, not a precondition. Decommissioning, it said, was "surrender."

Months passed with no change on either side. The political situation did change, however. Major's Conservative Party saw its parliamentary majority dwindle to the point where it became more and more dependent on the support of the nine Northern Ireland unionists to keep control of Parliament.

In November Major and Irish Prime Minister John Bruton tried to restore momentum by appointing an international commission, headed by former U.S. Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, to make recommendations on the arms issue so that negotiations on substantive political matters could begin independently of that question by the end of February.

Mitchell's panel recommended on Jan. 24 that Major drop his demand for weapons disposal as a precondition to talks, provided Sinn Fein and all other parties promised to use only peaceful means to advance their cause.

Major endorsed the report and said he would indeed drop that demand, but he then substituted a different condition: the proposal for an election in Northern Ireland originally proffered by Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader.

Officials in Dublin were stunned. The election idea, they said, was a known non-starter bound to be rejected by nationalists because of the outnumbered Catholics' past experiences at the polls in Northern Ireland.

The Dublin-London relationship reached a new low. Predictably, both Sinn Fein and the moderate Social Democratic and Labor Party, which has always opposed violence, angrily rejected Major's condition.

Most analysts say that was the watershed moment, a signal that the talking could go no further. It did not.

Davos : A meeting of international minds

By Scott Kraft
La Times-Washington Post News Service

DAVOS, Switzerland—Over dinner recently in this quiet resort high in the snowy Swiss Alps, Nobel Prize-winning scientist James Watson discovered a new friend in Frank Gehry, the distinguished Los Angeles architect.

"We learned we have a lot in common," recalled Watson, the 67-year-old DNA expert and president of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York. "We both love physical exercise. Did you know he learned to play hockey at age 65?"

The laws of personal chemistry were on display the same evening in another Davos restaurant, where Jean-Daniel Tordjman, France's ambassador for international investment, found himself seated next to an Italian industrialist—the same man Tordjman had been trying to meet for months.

By dessert, a multimillion-dollar venture in France was on the table. "The Italians love France," Tordjman explained later. "But it helps to have someone like me to help them through the bureaucracy."

Welcome to one of the largest, most sophisticated and most elite networking bazaars in the world. Every winter, nearly 2,000 business leaders, politicians, scientists, artists, educators and journalists converge—and sometimes collide—for six frenetic days in this small ski resort. The results have, over the past quarter-century, opened doors to billion-dollar deals, resolved gritty business and scientific problems and even spawned international peacekeeping.

Officially, it is the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum, a Swiss-based association of business leaders. But among participants it is simply "Davos," a word that has become synonymous with a high-powered, high-profile networking among business, government and academia.

"We live in a world where getting people's attention is the single most valuable thing," said Arno Penzias, Nobel laureate and chief scientist for AT&T's Bell Laboratories. "There's information all over the place, but the difficult thing is to get it. And this is a place where you can get people's attention."

The Davos networking system works thanks to an absence of interference. The rules bar secretaries, aides and other staff who—outside Davos—work together to control access to corporate executives and government ministers. Even heads of state are allowed only a single aide or interpreter and minimal personal security.

"Everyone here is equal," said Claude Smadja, one of the managing directors of the forum. "We don't allow anyone to bring their overwhelming entourage because that just creates barricades between people. So here you can find yourself elbow to elbow with people you wouldn't normally be able to approach without long, circuitous effort."

The networking operates on multiple levels. Many executives come prepared with detailed lists of the people they intend to meet and the things they want to accomplish. They roam the hallways in that effort, pausing only to take calls on their cellular telephones.

In this environment, the heads of major corporations—among them, Air France, Toyota, the German chemical company BASF and American textile maker Fieldcrest Cannon—can chat privately or in small groups with government figures—such as Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, German Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer and FBI Director Louis J. Freeh.

Alongside the government and business leaders are an assortment of invited guests. This year, they included the heads of unions, think tanks, hospitals and talent management agencies as well as diplomats, economists, newspaper columnists, tourists, Nobel Prize-winning scientists and an array of artists, from South African author and Nobel laureate Nadine Gordimer to Irish poet James Joyce.

Gordimer, Galway and Gehry joined sculptor Dani Karavan and a dozen other cultural leaders for a brainstorming session with small groups of conference participants. Another session, on the 1996 American presidential election, featured US Democratic Senator Bill Bradley, Christian Coalition director Ralph Reed and William J. Bennett, former

US secretary of education and co-director of the conservative advocacy group Empower America.

In past years, the neutral location and atmosphere of Davos has helped hasten efforts to reconcile some of the world's most difficult political disputes. Greece and Turkey signed a declaration here in 1988 to end hostilities. In 1989, North and South Korea chose Davos as the place to meet for the first time at the ministerial level.

The process of German unification was accelerated in 1990 by a meeting of the heads of East and West Germany. And in 1994, Peres and Palesine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat reached a draft agreement to bring Palestinian autonomy to the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

While Davos occasionally makes headlines, the World Economic Forum keeps a relatively low profile. It doesn't make things happen but rather creates a rich atmosphere in which things can happen.

The World Economic Forum was started in 1971 by Klaus Schwab, a Swiss professor of business administration, as a way for European business leaders to devise a common way to take advantage of the international marketplace. It expanded to include business leaders from a broad range of interests.

Businesses that are members pay from \$14,500 to \$17,000 in annual dues to the non-profit association, which has 70 full-time employees. Members pay an additional \$8,000 to attend the conference by invitation only. This year, organizers invited 250 public figures as well as 300 "regular fellows" and 200 "foreign fellows," regular participants from outside the business world.

In recent years, as nations find themselves increasingly pressed for time, the need for simple, uncluttered, high-level, all-important.

A few years ago, for example, a Swedish businessman came here after losing eight days in a hotel waiting for a promised meeting with the finance minister of an important Persian Gulf state. When, hours of waiting, the businessman was told that the finance minister was on his way to Davos.

More recently, a chance meeting between Tordjman, the French ambassador at large, and the head of Toyota led to the construction of a Toyota factory in France.

David J. Saul, the prime minister of Bermuda, met Dean LeBaron, chairman of Bermuda's Financial Management Inc., a global investment and advisory company, over ice cream a few years ago. LeBaron's company has been sending investors to Bermuda ever since.

Roy M. Huffington, head of a Houston-based oil company and former US ambassador to Austria, has been coming for 15 years.

"You can talk to heads of state and they say, 'Look me up,' he said. "They don't know me from Adam's old box. But this is a relaxed way to get to know each other. And it can pay off."

Stuart Rosenberg, senior vice president of Electronic Data Systems Corp., the Dallas-based company that does business in 40 countries, finds it a "fantastic experience. If you want to go somewhere and realize you're not a big cheese, this is it."

Watson, who won his Nobel Prize in 1962 for mapping the molecular structure of DNA, shied away from scientists and instead took the opportunity to hear a debate on religion between the head of the Christian Coalition and Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel, who is a humanities professor at Boston University.

"Frankly, I thought before I came here that Wiesel was overrated," Watson said. "But when I heard him speak, I was impressed. The chief benefit of this place for me is to change my attitude about high-profile figures."

Like Watson, many participants seek out leaders in other fields, people whom they would never have the chance to meet if not for this elite meeting place. Scientists turned up at sessions on "power couples" and corporate executives listened to experts discuss "designer babies." Forum organizers had to turn away dozens of participants who wanted to attend an overbooked dinner session to discuss "objective truth" with Wiesel.

Some people call this just a gift exchange, Penzias said. "And it's true that it's just people telling each other stuff, like writers sitting around a table. But it's still worth it."

US border guards crack down on Mexican immigrants

With the IDENT system, authorities have a new weapon against smugglers who guide groups of migrants across the border. Previously, they would give different names each time they were caught and claim to be ordinary migrants themselves, claims that could not be disproved.

By William Branigin
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

SAN DIEGO—Under cover of darkness, a steady drizzle and a patchy fog, Manuel Parra-Sierra and 11 other Mexicans scaled the eight-foot-high fence and bolted into the muddy salt flats of Border Field State Park.

Their destination: Imperial Beach, a community two miles away that illegal Mexican immigrants have long used as a staging point en route to other places in California and across the United States.

But this was not their lucky night. Almost immediately, the group was detected by seismic sensors, then tracked from a hilltop more than a mile away by a Border Patrol agent operating a Loris infrared night-vision device. By radio, the officer directed colleagues in Ford Broncos to the scene about three-quarters of a mile north of the border. The illegal crossers were then quickly surrounded by agents shouting "¡Ah! ¡Ah!" in Spanish.

"It's the economic situation we're living through," said Parra-Sierra, 33, explaining why he left his wife and two children at home in Yucatan state, where he earned less than \$3 a week as an electrician, to seek work in the United States.

The group was part of a wave of illegal border crossers driven by Mexico's worst economic recession in 60 years, an influx that is being met by a major new US effort to tighten control of the southwestern border. Launched on 16 January, the program reinforces Southern California and Arizona, with 300 Border Patrol and immigration officers supported by police, National Guard and military personnel. The move serves to bolster

higher proportion of skilled workers and middle-class people. The latest crossers have been fleeing an economy that has shrunk six percent and lost a million jobs last year while running 50 percent inflation and sustaining a nearly 60 percent drop in the value of the peso.

"In the last couple of months we've been seeing people who would never have considered coming to the border before," said Johnny N. Williams, the Border Patrol chief for the 66-mile San Diego sector. "They tell us they're forced to try something."

An existing campaign, "Operation Gatekeeper," already has made crossing here more difficult. Notably, it has driven up the costs that smugglers charge to guide illegal aliens through the human, physical and technological barriers that have changed the face of the border in the last couple of years.

As a result, illegal crossers have resorted increasingly to document fraud at legal ports of entry, and many have moved eastward into rougher and more dangerous terrain.

On 20 January, one young Mexican was killed and five others were injured, one critically, when they fell off a 120-foot cliff in the Otay Lakes area about 20 miles east of Imperial Beach. The survivors were rescued by the Border Patrol and a local sheriff's department helicopter.

There also has been a change in the type of people coming north illegally, according to US and Mexican authorities. Traditionally, most illegal crossers have been jobless laborers or farm workers from a few states in Mexico. Now, as in a previous economic crisis in the mid-1980s, they come from all over the country and include a

and then accelerated with the launch of Operation Gatekeeper in October 1994. Since then, illegal crossers in this sector have had to contend with 14 miles of fences made of surplus iron runway mats, a 50 percent increase in Border Patrol agents, newly bulldozed access roads for patrol vehicles, rows of stadium lights that illuminate smuggling routes, an enhanced array of night scopes, hundreds of seismic, metallic and infrared sensors, seven helicopters and a computerized identification system called "IDENT" that records the photographs and fingerprints of everyone apprehended.

The scopes basically run the show at night. Border Patrol supervisory agent Ron Henley said after personally collaring two of the illegal crossers rounded up in Border Field State Park.

"They took advantage of weather they thought we were not going to work in," said Steve Kartchner, another agent who arrived on the scene. While fog tends to limit the scopes' ability to pick people out of the darkness, on a clear cold night "you can almost count fingers," he said.

"The weather is about the only thing that can defeat us," Henley said.

With the IDENT system, authorities have a new weapon against smugglers who guide groups of migrants across the border. Previously, they would give different names each time they were caught and claim to be ordinary migrants themselves, claims that could not be disproved. The Border Patrol, a branch of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), would then bus them back to Mexico with other detainees, and the smugglers would be back in business.

Now, repeat offenders and previously deported criminal aliens can be more readily identified, then prosecuted on felony charges if they come back.



"For the first time, we have a border that is being managed," asserted Alan Bersin, the attorney general's special representative on border issues.

Fred Krissman, a researcher at the University of California San Diego's Center for US-Mexican Studies, charged, however, that the border-control program is merely "deflecting flows from one sector of the border to another." He added, "All we're really doing is raising the cost and difficulty of migration, but we're not even slowing, let alone stopping, the historical pattern."

At the San Ysidro crossing, the world's busiest port of entry with 45 million crossings last year, smugglers often operate within 50 yards of the inspection windows, said INS district director Mark Reed. "The smugglers are continually prodding," he said. "This has always been their turf. They're not going to give it up easily."

As he showed a reporter where the smugglers regularly gather, three men were boldly climbing a 12-foot fence that runs perpendicular to the border a few feet inside US territory. Reed sprinted over and ordered them to climb down.

"They see California as a dream, as the promised land," said the Rev. Gianni Panzolino, an Italian priest who runs a shelter for migrants in the Mexican border city of Tijuana. But it is harder than ever to get there, he said, and the number of migrants who report being turned back is now around 80 percent, up 30 percent from last month.




DAYTON OHIO / 10-January - 1996. AT&T Global information Solution Company will change its name and go back to the original name NCR Corporation. In preparation for the final separation from AT&T mother company, this separation will take place at the beginning of 1997, by then the company will be totally independent with its own stocks.

Mr. Azzam Sheweihat, the general manager of the company -Jordan Branch- said that the change of the name came as a result of AT&T declaration in 20-9-1995 of separating into three traditional companies which are the mother company AT&T and NCR corporation as well as a third company which will be defined later. Mr. Sheweihat expressed his relief, because the name NCR has its history in Jordan since the 1960's and the people of Jordan know the company mainly by that name. Since the beginning of 1995 the company resumed activities in Gaza and the West Bank for it fitted automatic many machines and variety of calculations in major banks there.

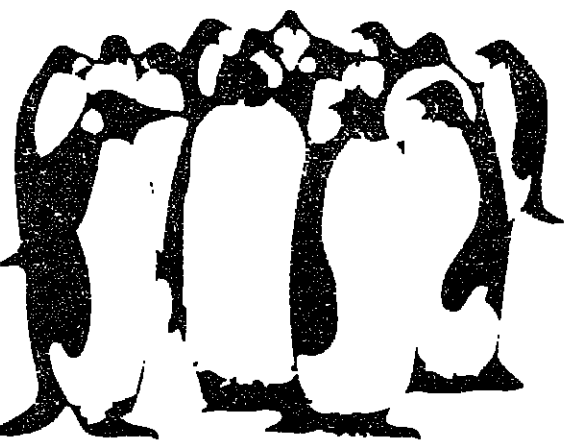
The president of the company in the M.E. and African Mr. Chris Phylactou said the name NCR sees really disappeared from the area, for it has built up 112 years of achievements, values and clients trust. He also added that the company has introduced new technology like worldmark servers, maintenance and traditional support services, and comprehensive solution services, as an example of the services in the M.E. and Africa, is the ATMS and retail POS machines. These solutions include computers and services pregames which counts date into awful information. So that clients can get better services.

The new motto of NCR is strength, responsibility, reliance and partnership with clients. NCR who said that it signed long term agreements with Bell labs to maintain; and improve NCR is participation in Bell lab's reserved. This



Mr. Azzam Sheweihat

AROUND TOWN



New Director of Sales at Marriott

● Rami Safadi has been promoted as Director of Sales at the Amman Marriott Hotel. Mr. Safadi graduated from the University of Orlando, Florida with a Hospitality Management Bachelor Degree in 1993. He occupied different positions with other international hotel chains in the United States from 1990-1993. Mr. Safadi joined the Amman Marriott Hotel in 1993 as sales manager after graduating and then was promoted to Director of Reservations Sales and is currently Director of Sales.



Safadi (left)

Safadi (left) joined the Amman Marriott Hotel in 1993 as sales manager after graduating and then was promoted to Director of Reservations Sales and is currently Director of Sales.

Another success from the Czechs at the RCC

By Eyad Ammari
Special to The Star

UNDER THE patronage of HRH Queen Noor, a violin recital was held on Sunday, 11 February, at the Royal Cultural Center, organized by the National Music Conservatory and the Czech Embassy in cooperation with the Czech Airlines and the Marriott Hotel.

The spectators were given a taste of three important eras in the history of the Sonata composition. A piece from the Baroque, two pieces from the Classical and one from the Romantic. Václav Hudeček, a leading contemporary violinist, entertained the audience with an energetic performance. The program started with Mozart's Sonata in G minor. As was popular among Haydn, Beethoven and Mozart at the time of its composition, the latter's sonata was composed in a three movement format, fast-slow-fast, that was almost a standard in Viennese classical sonatas, regardless of instru-



HRH Queen Noor shakes hands with Hudeček

mentation. Most sonatas written by Mozart and other composers of the era, like this sonata, were initially written for amateur music-making.

Beethoven's Sonata in D major, also labeled *quasi una fantasia* (opus 27, 1800-1801), was written using conventions other than Sonata form for the opening movement and called

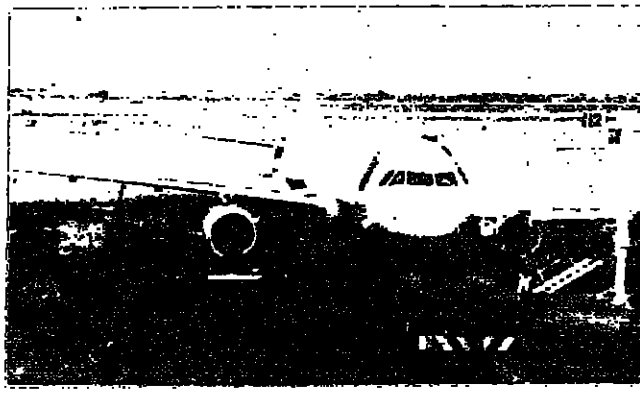
for no pause between movements. His practices with the Sonata set him apart from his predecessors. Schubert's Duo Sonata in A major, at the time of its composition, was infused with a new spirit, and the work employed Classical conventions for the number of movements and their formal schemes. It came at an era

where most Sonatas were composed, specifically by Schubert, Weber and Mendelssohn, for piano solo or for piano and violin. Dvorak's Sonata in G Major comes from a time where a four-movement, romantic and very thematic sonata was preferred.

Hudeček started playing at a young age and performed publicly for the first time at the age of fifteen playing Paganini's Concerto in D major with the world acknowledged Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London. Ever since, he also performed with several established orchestras such as the Berliner Philharmoniker, Gewandhaus Orchestra, Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, Moscow State Philharmonic, among others. Since 1990, he has been playing on the Liboni, a unique and rare type of specially made violin. Petr Adamec, a compatriot of Hudeček, accompanied him on the piano. They have been working together since Hudeček's early career. Adamec is an Associate Professor at the Musical Faculty of the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts.

The Star talked to several of the spectators about the performance. "Unparalleled," the conservatory's shows keep getting better and "I never enjoyed Sonatas as much as I did today."

First Tunisian Airlines plane lands at Queen Alia International Airport



THE TUNISIAN Airlines have started operating direct flights between Amman and Tunisia, and their first plane has already arrived at Queen Alia Airport. General Manager of the Tunisian Airlines, Mr. Husni Bin Saeed, said this step aims to develop commercial and touristic relations between the two countries. He also expressed hope that this move will strengthen cooperation between the Tunisian Airlines and Royal Jordanian regarding trips to Asia, Europe and America. Jordan, he said, is the gate through which Tunis can get to the east.



Mr. Bin Saeed

The passengers of the first trip were received warmly, and were given flowers upon arrival.

Emirates drums up international attendance to Dubai shopping festival



EMIRATES, THE international airline of the UAE, is one of the key sponsors of the Dubai shopping Festival taking place from 15 February to 28 March. It is participating along with other companies, banks and commercial centers in boosting the number of visitors to Dubai during the days of the festival. "Emirates will be the official means of transportation to the festival," said Saeed Hamdan, general manager of Emirates.

Emirates will provide participants in the festival with a number of facilities as an incentive to shop more in Dubai. All passengers departing from Dubai will receive excess baggage allowance of 10 kg over the normal published allowance. Special shopping packages have been released by the airline's lounge management division. Emirates Holidays, to guarantee visitors hotel rooms and airline seats during the festival. Each package lasts up to four nights and costs from \$428 per person. The price covers return economy airfare between the respective cities and Dubai, hotel accommodation with breakfast, airport meet-and-assist services and transfers. The packages are now being sold in Tehran, Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Singapore and Bangkok.

Emirates Holidays sells Dubai vacations in its range of brochures which are produced in several languages and distributed to travel agents and corporate clients network-wide. The products are now available in many countries like Jordan, Iran, Lebanon, Egypt etc. The airline is also promoting the month-long shopping bonanza with publicity throughout its network of 38 destinations.

The Emirates, said Hamdan, has won over 85 international awards including airline of the year 1994. "Established just 10 years ago, Emirates flies one of the youngest and most modern fleets in the world," he added. (See Story at back page)

Right shows, but what about the audience?

CONSIDERABLE EFFORT goes into the production of two highly interesting Jordan Television shows, yet they do not seem to be receiving the credit they are due. Frim, produced and hosted by Nida Ramahi, and Heartbeat, produced and hosted by Maha Addasi, have considered and presented problems more courageously and thoroughly than most other shows. The Star talked to the hosts and asked them about their aspirations and goals, stressing one critical question: would your subjects have greater success with audiences who watch Channel One rather than those who watch Channel Two, and if so why not have your shows in Arabic?

Ramahi who has a Bachelor of Science in radio, TV and journalism confirmed the view that such a show should also be in Arabic but was cautious about its success. "Those who don't care to watch it in subtitled Arabic aren't going to watch anyway, regardless of the language," she states.

Ramahi is interested in social, economic and political matters. She insists that they are as inseparable as the parts of the human body. She tackles issues according to the available information. At times, the show takes the form of a debate, a documentary, a review or a report. She had great success with a three-series report on the Beijing Conference last year, although she had little time to produce the show, and the only material available was news reports.

She can see that most volunteers for issues discussed in her program come from Amman, and are more interested in its current format. She



Ramahi

also finds that it would be hard to translate an entire show into Arabic for the Channel One audience. Since many people interested in Frim are from the private sector, she is more concerned with the quality of the show than its language. "I want to bring it closer to people," she said. "I want to bring it closer to people."



Addasi

Both hosts find their work challenging and extremely rewarding. They share a wish to help and inform, each in her own field and her own way. They also believe that their shows, translated to Arabic would create unnecessary competition that would down rate the shows themselves.

A new cycle of each of the shows is due to start after the Eid holidays.

an informative, educational program, not a technical one containing medical jargon. "I want to bring it closer to people," she said. "I want to bring it closer to people."

Addasi likes to break the confinement of being just a presenter of a show. Unlike scientifically oriented programs where the host is always invisible and remains alien to the viewer, she prefers to establish "eye-contact" with the viewers, so that her recommendations and advice sink in.

Both hosts find their work challenging and extremely rewarding. They share a wish to help and inform, each in her own field and her own way. They also believe that their shows, translated to Arabic would create unnecessary competition that would down rate the shows themselves.

A new cycle of each of the shows is due to start after the Eid holidays.

Air France: Always renovating

● Air France wishes to inform its passengers that an advance check-in by phone, fax or Minitel is available from Paris Charles de Gaulle or Paris Orly Airports. Passengers should have firm reservations and be carrying their hand-baggage. With only one phone call, the boarding pass will be available at any Air France sales desk at the airport or in the lounges. Passenger's rights are Air France's concern.



Road to Hell Potentials of a young novelist

Road To Hell, By Rima Jbara. Hayatt Annas. Dubai, 1996, pp231.

AMMAN (Star) —The Road to Hell is the latest novel of the young author Rima Jbara. She has published two previous novels: The first was *Powerful Love* in 1993 and the second was *Golden Love* in 1994. The author writes in English and her latest novel was influenced by Western romantic literature. Jbara published

her first novel when she was only 14. Her heroines are usually young girls who dream of fame and romantic love.

Jbara's novels are promising and she could have a future. She writes with adequate imagination to keep the reader interested. The climax is reached through logical steps.

Her writing is suitable for the young people she addresses, although her choice of vocabulary is strong. The *Road to Hell* is about a teenager called Maura Morales who dreams of fol-

lowing in the footsteps of her idol Marilyn Monroe. She takes the first step by winning the Miss Madrid title and winning everyone around her. She grows up to be the world's favorite actress and the ultimate symbol of beauty. She falls in love with her former neighbor Edward Brighton, who had previously loved her and who uses her success to achieve his own goals. She does not realize that the love might not be her future.



Rima Jbara

OVERHEARD AT TURINO..

CONSISTENTLY COMMITTED... TO BETTER HOSPITALITY

TURINO has advertised recently very special rates for their Suites Hotel with the emphasis on its consistent commitment to hospitality and service.

The idea is that Turino now offers ritzy-style luxury in Amman for no more than the cost of a regular hotel room.

We understand that discounts in the low seasons are over 40% especially to corporations and foreign clients. The super plus at Turino is of course attributed to its two famous restaurants. The Club Restaurant and Cheers Elite Café.

If you are visiting Amman, Turino is around the corner of the southern end of 6th circle. It's moderately priced and the burgers and pizzas at Cheers Café are claimed to be among the best in the world!

Try Turino for dinner
Call 863 944
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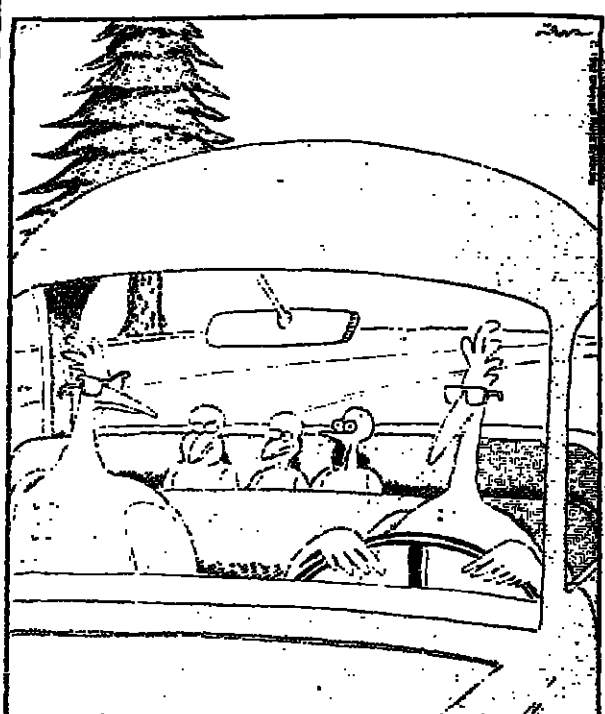


THE FAR SIDE

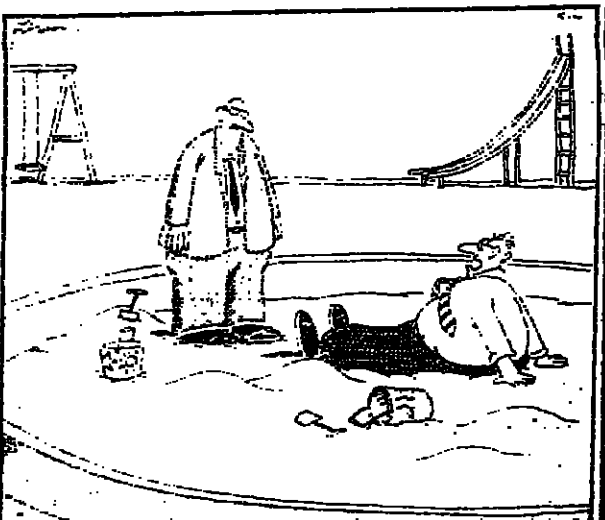
By GARY LARSON



Fly dates



"Mom! We were all singing 'She'll Be Comin' Around the Mountain,' but Randy won't stop with the 'whack, whack' part!"



"OK, McFadden... So that's the way you wanna play."



"Sorry to bother you, sir, but there's another salesman out here — you want me to tell him to go to heaven?"

AGENDA

- Films**
- *Native Son*, at the American Center, today, Thursday, 15 February at 2 pm
 - *An event for children* at the French Cultural Center on Monday, 19 February, at 8 pm
 - *Learning Tree*, at the American Center, today Thursday, 22 February at 2 pm
 - *Brighton Bridge on ch...* at the French Cultural Center on Monday, 25 February, at 8 pm
 - *Viva Maria* at the French Cultural Center on Mon-
- day 25 February, at 6 pm.
- Exhibitions**
- Print-making and Painting exhibition by Jordanian artist Yasser Dweik, at Darat Al Funun, continuing until 18 February.
 - *Estampe de Peintre en France* at the French Cultural Center until 29 February
- Jazz Evenings**
- The Jazz evening will take place at the American Center on Wednesday 28 February at 8 pm.

FEBRUARY 1996

A special section offering
fresh perspective on
global issues prepared for

The Star

THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES
ON FIVE CONTINENTS



Can capitalism clean up after communism?

Western shareholders want clean dividends

Bureaucrats traditionally hound businesspeople to limit their pollution. In Russia and Eastern Europe, however, the roles have been reversed: capitalism and its invisible hand is cleaning up after communism and its all-pervading regulations

By Brad Durham

WHILE SOVIET industrial policy forced companies to pollute the environment to meet production quotas, Russia's newly privatized companies are answering different calls from investors and the global capital markets for greater efficiency.

The ravages of Russia's industrial pollution are everywhere. There are 100 cities where pollution is greater than five times what even lax Russian standards allow, causing innumerable health hazards such as birth defects, immune system abnormalities and chronic respiratory ailments. The life expectancy for men in Russia has fallen on par with the United States 10 years ago to 61, lower than many developing countries.

The bewildering list of pollutants in any city is headed by lead and zinc, leached by huge factories that were built by Stalin's directives to be close to urban areas. Urban folklore says that the lead makes people tired and the zinc, on the other hand, energizes the body and spirit and makes every dream and plan seem possible. Russia's new capitalists need the zinc they can get.

Many Russian factories are models of inefficiency, requiring three to five times more energy—and producing a proportional amount of pollution—to make the same amount of goods as their Western counterparts. While selling the virtues of efficiency to company directors was impossible in an era when energy prices were artificially low, the goal was merely to fulfill a production plan set in Moscow. Russian economic reform has caused the price of fuel and raw materials to rise and company directors scrambling to modernize. Bankruptcy procedures loom for those that fail, an increasingly common fate in Russia, while government officials are anathema to the government's prevailing economic policies. Since most of Russia's major enterprises have been given a good dose of privatization, management must now look to its shareholders, which usually

includes company employees, Western institutional investors, an assortment of fund managers and Russia's pushy banks and brokerage companies. According to the London-based investment bank Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, shareholders replaced management in 10 percent of Russian enterprises in 1995. Russian managers are beginning to realize that pesky shareholders are a necessary evil for gaining access to capital for growth and modernization. For their part, shareholders are demanding that companies operate with greater efficiency by restructuring and investing in modern, and cleaner, technology.

Shareholders are pushing hard for the modernization of Magnitogorsk Steel, for example, Russia's largest steel producer and one of its most prodigious polluters. The company's old open-hearth furnaces are so inefficient that it requires 50,000 employees to make 12 million tons of steel compared to modern US plants which require only about 12,000 workers to produce the same amount. Magnitogorsk Steel reckons it needs about US\$2 billion to upgrade its steel production technology and is turning to foreign portfolio investors and loans from a syndicate of foreign banks for a portion of this financing.

Russian managers are also beginning to watch their share price like their Western counterparts. The Russian oil producer Komeft had been sitting on its hands when some footage of a spill—several times larger than the Exxon Valdez and caused by oil that had been flowing for months from the company's ruptured pipeline in the Komi Republic—appeared on American television last fall. After further inaction caused foreign investors to pull out of the stock, reducing the company's share price by two-thirds, Komeft leapt into action. It secured \$125 million in loans from the World Bank and EBRD this spring to contain the spill, which the company reported in mid-October had been entirely cleaned up. A potentially devastating crisis to the region's rivers, the health and livelihood

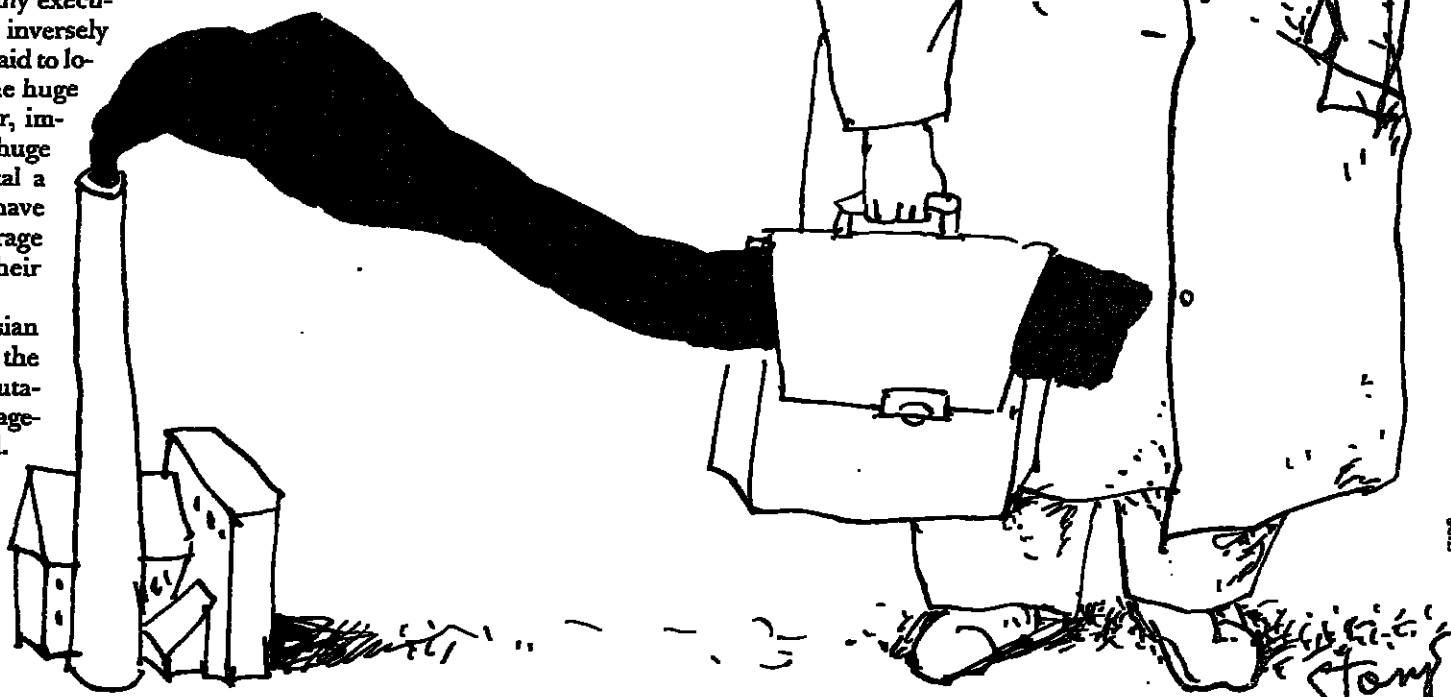
of people living along the river, and wildlife had been averted.

Environmental laws in Russia are becoming increasingly strict but are still ineffectual. While laws have been adopted that impose heavy sanctions on chronic polluters, including closing down enterprises, they are enforced much like Russian traffic laws. According to an oil company executive, "the size of the fine is inversely proportional to the bribes paid to local ecology inspectors. The huge penalties are rarely, if ever, imposed." Still, the threat of huge fines that could easily total a company's annual profits have forced investors to encourage companies to clean up their acts.

Most importantly, Russian companies are discovering the relationship between a reputation for efficiency, good management and access to capital. While capitalism may have some adverse environmental impact, such as freeing up more resources for Russia's cash-strapped timber companies to clear-cut forests in the Russian Far

East, the continuing development of Russia will take place with cleaner technology and more responsible environmental standards. ☐

BRAD DURHAM IS THE EDITOR AND CO-FOUNDER OF *Russia Portfolio*, AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PUBLICATION ON THE RUSSIAN SECURITIES MARKET.



Bankruptcy is Eastern Europe's greatest conservationist

Business running ahead of the law

Editors of *The World Paper* conduct a monthly dialogue on *Apple's eWorld*. This month, three environmentalists from East Europe fielded questions on the progress made cleaning up after communism, and the role of market forces in helping—and hindering—that clean up. Marta Kaczynska (Institute for Sustainable Development, Poland), Jan Seffer (Daphne Foundation for Applied Environmental Research, Slovakia) and Slawomir Janysek (Polish Society for Nature Protection) were visiting the US on environmental fellowships sponsored by the Quebec-Labrador Foundation.

Q: Please describe the types of pollution most serious in Poland and Slovakia.

SLAWEK: For Poland, air pollution is the most important. We have problems with transboundary pollution from East German and the Czech Republic and, of course, the concentrations of industry in southern Poland. The pollution is decreasing right now because we have some economic problems, and also we're intensively modernizing our industries.

JAN: In Slovakia, our main problem is water pollution, because during socialism a big factory was built in almost every mountain valley. Also, Slovakia is very dependent on what other countries do. We share the Danube with Austria, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Austria puts good pressure on us to clean up the Danube, but the Czech Republic has our problems.

Q: Are people really aware of the problems they've been living with so long?

MARTA: Yes. We have the so-called Black Triangle, which is where the boundaries of the Czech Republic, Poland and Germany all meet. Mountain forests suffer terribly from air pollution and sulfur dioxide. I think people are very aware right now, but it doesn't mean they find it easy to cope with these problems.

Q: Who is really pushing for change,

the new governments, local citizen groups or businesses?

JAN: The biggest push is caused by economic depression, because our business doesn't have enough money for improvements. Local citizens groups unfortunately have problems with social issues—unemployment, inflation, etc. So they have other things to worry about.

MARTA: Non-governmental organizations are making the biggest push in Poland.

SLAWEK: Our transboundary agreements are supported by many grants from different countries, organizations and governments to decrease the pollution, modernize the factories and build septic stations.

Q: Are things still getting worse? Is there anything to show for efforts so far?

JAN: This economic decline is a good way to limit water pollution—a lot of factories have been scrapped.

MARTA: That's true, Jan. It's one of the reasons why pollution is getting lower. A lot of effort at the moment is concentrated on the "end of the pipe" technologies, but there is a trend towards preventing pollution.

Q: Marta, are the NGOs run by foreigners or by locals? In other words who really is the force behind efforts to improve pollution?

MARTA: All of the NGOs are local, but still majority of grants, particularly for our work come from abroad.

JAN: Our problem in Slovakia is that our civic communities are still very weak. The push is coming—from the side—from environmental groups.

Q: Speaking environmentally, did anything positive come out of communist rule?

JAN: Socialism did give us a system of protected areas, and during socialism there was no problem with enforcing the rules.

SLAWEK: I think that our environmental legislation is quite strong, and

now the main effort is decentralizing decision making. Moreover, our special structure of private lands allows us to build an ecological network. We don't have to search out private lands to buy, so we can spend time planning the structure of our network.

Q: Preservation of wilderness areas, and thus modest pollution in much of the US, is the result of lands owned by the government. Under socialism—with much government ownership—is there any parallel benefit?

JAN: Slovakia also has good environmental laws, but re-privatization of the public land is worrying. In Slovakia, the public land is in the best environmental shape.

MARTA: Now there are more and more private lands in Poland and we need new tools to protect them.

Q: What kind of tools? Is there an on-

vironmental awareness program in schools?

MARTA: We learned here about negotiations with land owners and land easements. Our work starts from roots, designing legislation and adapting laws to new conditions. There is very strong environmental education now.

Q: Is the re-privatization of public lands going on without environmental strings attached, except for general legislation?

JAN: I think we have a better chance now that there is ownership, and thus inheritance: now that people are going to get this land, they will care about its condition. We can influence them. Outside support is vital, because our government is still hostile to independent organizations, and citizens have little money to spare. About 90 percent

► ONLINE PAGE 2

Norilsk's blood-red rivers

ONE OF RUSSIA'S WORST polluters, Norilsk Nickel, is also a favorite among foreign and domestic investors in the Russian securities market. A close relationship with investors may help the company become less of an environmental scourge.

Norilsk produces about one-fifth of the world's nickel supply. In 1994, Norilsk produced 2.8 million metric tons of sulphur into the atmosphere, approximately seven times the amount generated by the entire US non-ferrous metals industry. The Canadian nickel company Inco, which has similar nickel production volumes as Norilsk, produced only 485,000 metric tons of sulphur in 1994.

Rivers near Norilsk run blood red with toxins and trees are dead or dying for miles from repeated sulfuric acid rains. The city of the same name is known as the most polluted in Russia and perhaps the world.

Luckily for the 250,000 people of Norilsk, the company's solid financials, investor-friendly management and its global influence has made it something of a darling of Russia's capital markets. These ties are good for the environment since Norilsk will require significant capital expenditures to bring its production processes in line with modern environmental concerns.

Investors are already beginning to exert influence over management. "I think foreign investors would be very concerned if a company like Norilsk is running the risk of having to pay large fines for environmental infractions," said Rajiv Hemrani, an analyst with AIOC Capital, a New York-based investment firm which has a sizable stake in Norilsk Nickel and other Russian metals companies. "Big environmental fines would certainly take away from dividend payouts."

Norilsk's environmental nightmare may actually give it a leg up on the competition. Norilsk recently received a \$300 million environmental package from Norway and the Russian government for the environmental upgrade of its nickel processing facility. This will, ironically, help the company clean-up and modernize its fixed assets at lower costs than those incurred by its Western competitors.

—By Brad Durham



The painful, post-communist economic change means that fewer businesses in Eastern Europe need toxic waste dumps like this one at Kazincbarcska, Hungary

German taxpayers seeing the dirty underside of unification

Communists grew sour apples

By Emelia Jaroschek

WHEN THE WHEELS finally came off the German-Democratic Republic there were no delusions in the West about the mess that would be found at the scene of the accident.

Communist East Germany broke all manner of records: nowhere in the world were higher quantities of sulfur and carbon dioxide emitted per head. Four decades of abuse, for starters, left only 3 percent of the country's rivers and streams ecologically intact. Half the running water and a quarter of all still water could no longer be used for human consumption—even

after the most extensive purification.

The extent of the damage was kept top secret by law, but the collapse of the Berlin Wall took the lid off that can and the score currently stands at 70,000 highly-suspect industrial properties and 10,000 illegal "garbage" dumps.

Immediate shutdown of several industries and the strict application of energy controls have so far cut carbon dioxide emissions by half. But Germany will have to keep its teeth on the bullet, warns Federal Environmental Affairs Minister Angela Merkel, and set aside US\$21.4 billion within the next five years for removal and clean-up of industrial scrap, chemical pollution and

pollution in the coal-mining areas.

Additional funds will be needed to clear deadly ammunition, oil, acid and chemicals left to rot on the 27,000 refuse-riddled sites vacated by the Soviet military. "No less than 25 billion marks," will be the cost of cleaning up these sites—collectively covering an area the size of Delaware—predicts Federal Environment Office chief, Freiherr von Lersner. Earlier, in anticipation of the magnitude of the predicament, one soil-cleaning concern sought a government allowance covering 7,000 tons of Red Army-poisoned earth a year. It found the government more than willing to oblige. Today, it is facing a noxious mountain weighing

40,000 tons per year.

Then comes the up-dating of water-recycling plants and sewerage systems, the painstaking extraction of asbestos in buildings. The list is endless. And as the sanitation services move in to distribute the bills, the bottomless pit of environmental sins leaves the taxpayer in a cold sweat. Already a portion of the 7.5 percent so-called "solidarity levy," tacked on to personal income tax to pay off the GDR's outstanding debt of \$35 billion and finance new investments, goes towards the big clean-up; individual investors taking on a suspect site to date have to foot only 10 percent of its laundry bill.

But this special tax alone will never make ends meet. All manner of consumer hikes are also needed. The price of water has gone up markedly, for example. A 7 percent increase was slapped on to the price of milk to compensate farmers in the East for switching to eco-friendly packaging.

This "sour apple," as it has been dubbed by the grumbling public, initially may have come as no surprise. However, says Berlin market-watcher Peter Schmalz, the cost of the East's grand resurrection into a thriving economy has far outstripped Chancellor Helmut Kohl's arithmetic of five years ago. The time to tell Germans to drink less beer in order to pay for an orchard of "saurer Äpfel" may be lurking just around the corner—a hot potato for any administration.

If there is an upside to the problem, it stems from the old adage that, "Where there's muck there's brass." Like mushrooms after overnight rain, a generation of muck-busters are sweeping to the fore—and in a country with such stringent environmental laws as Germany they have fertile ground for their Green technology. In terms of profits, they can look forward to rich harvests for years to come.

For 1995 alone, the turnover of private sector cleansing services—numbering some 8,500 firms—has exceeded \$50 billion. Water recycling, waste destruction, composting and pollution removal are all booming. Competition, however, is razor-sharp, and these "end-of-the-pipe" technology vendors are struggling with shifting market demands. They have been particularly hard hit by the worldwide economic dip.

With a keen eye on today's demand for eco-planning, such companies launched the Environment Industry Association. Founder member Helmut

Russian crocodile tears

Russians profess a love of nature and are prone to misty-eyed descriptions of birch tree forests, vast mountains, lakes, bears and boars. But they have been miserable environmental stewards.

To the top brass of the Soviet Union's command economy, the environment was a vast stockpile of fodder to fuel the nation's drive towards industrialization. Any proposal to exploit the nation's natural resources, provided it met Soviet standards of gargantuan size, was possible.

When Soviet bureaucrats decided they needed more water for the cotton and rice fields of Kazakhstan, they simply siphoned off the flow of two rivers feeding the Aral Sea, resulting in its evaporation by half and over-irrigation that encrusted land with chlorides and other chemical compounds that have poisoned thousands of residents in the region. A radical decision to reverse the northward flow of several Russian rivers south to Central Asia was about to be implemented before being foiled by a group of scientists in 1986, one of perestroika's first victories.

Nuclear reactors were situated dangerously near metropolitan areas since, according to Soviet-era industrial logic, people are there and it is costly to transport energy to the end-user, while Russia's nuclear-powered icebreakers regularly hoist flags indicating engine trouble in order to disguise from nosy foreign vessels the spewing of tons of nuclear waste into the Arctic Ocean.

And well before Chernobyl was Chelyabinsk-65, a producer of weapons-grade plutonium that exploded in 1957, contaminating a 185-mile spindle of farmland with 40 percent more radioactivity than was emitted by Chernobyl. Motorists travelling through this stretch of land are still warned by road signs to drive very quickly and not to stop.

—By Brad Durham

Kaiser is optimistic: "We have the means and we are the leaders." The organization has 300 members and envisages at least 1,000 by 1996, all lobbying for tighter regulations, especially on the packaging-recycling front. "I can see more than two million people being employed in the environmental sector by the year 2000. But, of course, this won't work without generous government subsidies."

The Green/Bündnis 90 coalition party, currently enjoying somewhat heavier clout since the last nail-biting elections, promises government funding for the long list of anti-pollution assignments and forecasts a boom for the muck-busters. "They're desperately needed here. And elsewhere," says Berlin party spokesman Mathias Tang. "The know-how must be exported to toxic waste-ridden Eastern Europe."

Not everybody agrees with the present welter of "fix it" firms. Horst Sander of the Environmental Section of the Federal Association of German Industry: "What's the use of all these companies if there's not enough subsidy money in government and public coffers? Too many companies have climbed into the act already. We have

about a 1,000 soil-pollution researchers, for instance, and there's enough in the kitty to pay them, we're overdoing it."

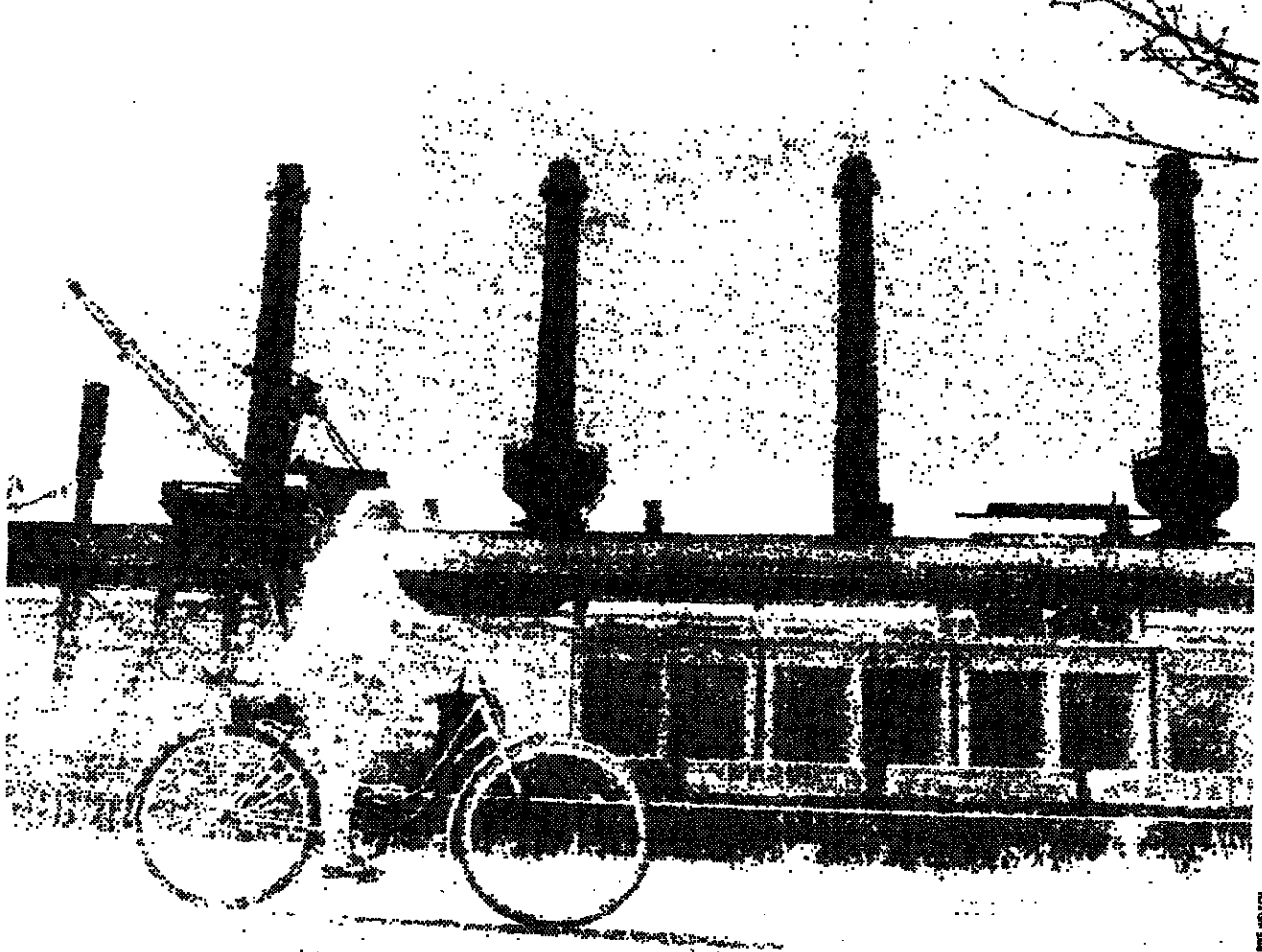
EIA's Helmut Kaiser recognizes the complaint. Conditions, he says, are now characterized by a greater demand for complete, overall solutions—joint projects even—rather than the partial remedies of the past.

"These w... pros from the... turs in the indus... Few firms in the field report high... yields at the m... ment. But success... players will attempt to enact glob... strategies with hi... local relevance... Think globally, locally. Environmental cleansing is can't be a loser in long run."

Kaiser, and his surveys foresee the Western European market for environment technology blossoming from \$163 billion in 1995 to \$277 billion in 10 years.

It all sounds cozy. But it still leaves the average German in a cold sweat with a twitchy eye on the price of beer.

EMELIA JAROSCHKE IS A REPORTER FOR BZ, BERLIN'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER.



A bumpy ride: the cost of cleaning up East Germany's communist-era factories continues to mount

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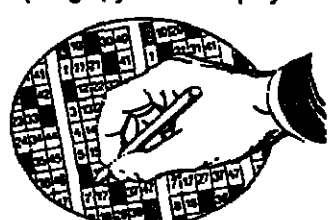
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RUNNING AHEAD

Continued from page 1

of our funding comes from outside Slovakia.

Q: It seems we are talking about two issues: one, how to preserve relatively "clean" environments, much of which was owned by the government. The second is concerns about already polluted areas.

MARTA: This is typical for our countries. We have very polluted areas and very beautiful areas as well.

Q: Regarding already polluted areas, is there a conscious or unconscious policy to allow environmental standards to be lower than the US and Western Europe in an effort to attract industry?

MARTA: I think our standards are lower, but it's not popular in Poland. Overall, the laws are the same through-

out the country, so there are no special breaks.

SLAWEK: But our labor is cheaper, which makes us attractive.

JAN: Two thirds of our economy in Slovakia is still unprivatized; when privatization is complete, the pressure on environmental rules will be dangerous. Corruption is our biggest danger. We're a small country, and everybody knows everybody. It will be easy for business to lobby against our environmental rules, which are pretty good at the moment.

Q: Jan, it sounds like you are saying that the laws are fine but can often be violated through corruption?

JAN: At the moment, it is not a problem, but I think it soon will be.

MARTA: It's not a matter of corruption, but of the strength of the business

community.

Q: Is the business community the big guy? If so, who will create new demand? How do you find a happy medium?

MARTA: Often business activities are before the creation of a new law for the activities. For example, projects for new highways in Poland are being announced almost at the same time as the creation laws concerning the highways.

JAN: Chemical industries are the biggest polluters in Slovakia, and they are quite profitable compared to other firms. Converting defense industries is a new problem; it is still difficult to find out what they are doing. One of the chemical companies established a so-called environmental organization that gave them a little money to tell people "We are so green," but nothing got cleaned up.

La France."

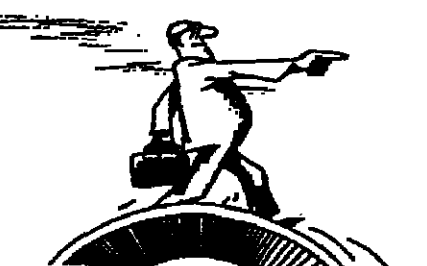
2. Both editors have read Professor J.K. Galbraith's books, and have had the pleasure of editing articles he has written for The WorldPaper. They would like to hear why Professor Galbraith's work invalidates the points raised in The WorldPaper's edition on the future of economic indicators.

3. Perhaps Marie Antoinette would have said of us: "Let them eat crow"...

TO THE EDITOR

Mr. Crocker Snow Jr., editor-in-chief of The WorldPaper, is lucky there is no guillotine for editors who do not know history. It was not Charles de Gaulle who made the statement "L'Etat c'est moi." It was Louis XIV. Maybe Mr. Crocker Snow Jr. thinks it was Madame de Gaulle who said: "Let them eat cake."

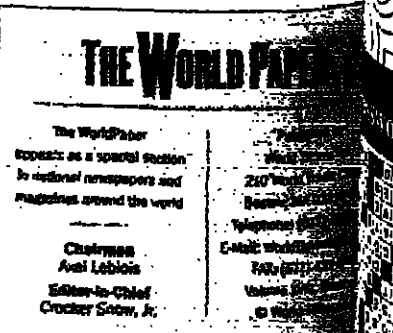
Moreover, if you want to enlighten your leaders on the subject of how flawed GNP is as a measure of economic progress, please, do not rely on The WorldPaper. They seem not to have read Prof. John Kenneth Galbraith's Affluent Society or The New Industrial State. As for The WorldPaper's statement, "The American media is ignorant of foreign cultures and un-



able to see the big picture." I agree. —Osvaldo Coelho, Bandung, West Java

The editors of The WorldPaper, contacted in Boston, offer only these comments:

1. While Mr. Coelho is correct about the origin of the statement "L'Etat, c'est moi," Louis XIV was not the only French leader with an elevated opinion of himself. Napoleon Bonaparte borrowed this phrase, and we believe that Charles de Gaulle did so during a speech in Montreal, Canada. He certainly said, "Je suis



Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Un scrutin avancé pour la paix

● Pour justifier la tenue d'élections générales anticipées en Israël, le Premier ministre israélien Shimon Peres (notre photo) a déclaré qu'il avait besoin d'un «nouveau mandat pour la paix». Il ne veut pas attendre le mois d'octobre et a choisi la date du 28 mai pour ces élections.

La campagne tournera autour de trois thèmes principaux: l'Etat palestinien réclamé par Yasser Arafat, l'avenir de Jérusalem et les négociations de paix avec la Syrie.

Le calendrier oblige en effet le premier ministre israélien à obtenir la confiance de la population avant de s'engager dans ces différentes discussions. Si les pourparlers avec la Syrie doivent reprendre dans une dizaine de jours, les négociations avec l'OLP sur le devenir des territoires occupés à l'issue de l'autonomie en 1999 doivent avoir lieu au mois de mai.

Dans l'immédiat, M. Peres semble vouloir éviter d'aborder la question de l'éventuelle restitution du plateau du Golan, assurant qu'un référendum serait organisé après les élections en cas d'accord de paix avec la Syrie.



SELON

SONDAGE

Les sociétés qui prétendent être parfaites ne se rencontrent que dans l'imagination de Plutarque et d'Aristote, ou de bien d'autres théoriciens naïfs et purs qui ont oublié que les hommes sont tous pareils, rongés par le vice et la corruption, comme le dit Daudet.

Les Jordaniens sont généreux, sincères, susceptibles, amoureux, respectueux, obéissants et se distinguent de certains voisins par le fait que la corruption n'a pas encore dévoré toutes les couches de leur société.

Mais indiscutablement, la corruption fait partie de nos nombreux défauts qui entraînent l'équilibre précaire de notre fragile société.

Les Jordaniens sont désormais rodés aux refrains classiques de la lutte contre la corruption et les écoutent avec indifférence et moquerie. Il semble tout de même que pour parvenir à lutter de façon honnête contre ce mal, trois éléments soient indispensables: désigner des hommes «propres» pour diriger et arbitrer en sachant que tout dirigeant n'ayant jamais été soumis à l'épreuve de la corruption ne peut être qualifié d'incorruptible, n'épargner personne dans cette lutte acharnée, et, enfin, arriver à rassurer les gens pour qu'ils puissent témoigner en toute sécurité.

Nous avons tendance à traiter la corruption comme un syndrome et non comme une maladie!

Le mercurochrome sur une jambe de bois n'a jamais eu d'effets magiques, et vouloir guérir un abcès par des pansements ne fait qu'aggraver l'infection. Il faut crever l'abcès pour obtenir la guérison.

La nouvelle tactique officielle semble s'adresser à la corruption «à étioles», qui pourrait notre pays. La corruption est une tumeur qu'il faut extirper maintenant, avant que les métastases nous anéantissent.

Notre petit pays baigne dans une maladie qui se guérit, mais les vices entrent dans la composition de nos vertus comme le poison entre dans la composition des remèdes.

Notre seule arme, notre unique traitement, c'est la volonté. La volonté sincère d'en finir avec ce fléau. Les Jordaniens ne sont pas dupes. Ils savent bien que toute thérapie évasive, précoce, ne peut se concevoir dans une société «en porcelaine» comme la nôtre.

Connaître les mauvais citoyens est d'une simplicité enfantine: demandez à dix personnes dans la rue des noms, ils vous répéteront les mêmes.

Prenez un quotidien paru après la nomination du nouveau gouvernement, découpez les faire-parts de félicitations adressés à tel ou tel ministre et envoyez vos insinuations: vous trouverez ceux qui altèrent la morale jordanienne.

La première étape efficace dans la lutte contre la corruption, si l'on veut franchement lutter contre, est de désigner officiellement les corrompus, puis de leur ôter toute protection et de les laisser voler de leurs propres ailes.

Croyez bien qu'ils viendront rapidement s'écraier sur les pieds de ceux qu'ils ont toujours piétinés.

Suhail Alsweis

Politique

Un premier sondage pour juger le gouvernement

Pour la première fois, un sondage est réalisé juste après la composition d'un nouveau gouvernement pour connaître le sentiment de la population. En Jordanie, le sondage n'est apparu qu'en 1993 et reste une pratique peu fréquente.

Après la nomination du nouveau gouvernement par le roi, le Centre des études stratégiques de l'Université de Jordanie a effectué au début du mois un sondage. Son objectif: connaître les points de vue des citoyens vis-à-vis des réformes annoncées, ainsi que leurs réactions par rapport à ce jeune gouvernement et sa capacité à poursuivre la mission de paix commencée par le gouvernement précédent.

L'idée de réaliser un sondage a été concrétisée pour la première fois en Jordanie en 1993 par le Centre des études stratégiques. Depuis, sept sujets ont été soumis à l'opinion publique, dont la condition de la femme, la démocratie en Jordanie, la confédération jordan-palestinienne...

C'est la première fois que l'on a recours à un sondage juste après la nomination d'un gouvernement. «Il était intéressant pour nous de sonder la population jordanienne après les différentes déclarations annonçant «la révolution blanche». Pour savoir comment la population juge les intentions du gouvernement», explique Fares Bazbazat, un des responsables du Centre des études stratégiques. «Notre objectif est d'intensifier les études et les recherches dans la société jordanienne. Nous avons initié ce sondage dans le but d'ouvrir de nouveaux horizons», expose le professeur Mustafa Hamaneh, directeur des études stratégiques à l'Université de Jordanie.

Le genre de sondage reflète l'opinion publique et la position des citoyens envers les différents événements de la société. Cela permet aux détenteurs du pouvoir décisionnaire d'appliquer une politique adaptée», analyse le professeur Mouhammad Masalrah, directeur de département de Sciences Politiques à l'Université de Jordanie.

Deux panels bien différents Le sondage effectué sur trois jours s'est basé sur un échantillon national de mille deux cent personnes incluant des familles de niveaux culturels et sociaux variés, et des étudiants d'universités.

«Il aurait peut-être fallu sélectionner l'échantillon national pour qu'il soit plus représentatif de la population», commente Mouhammad Masalrah, qui se montre sceptique à l'égard de la composition du panel interrogé. Selon lui, le sondage n'a pas tenu compte du point de vue de certaines professions, comme celui des agriculteurs qui ont une opinion tout à fait différente de celle des citadins. En effet, la majorité des gens sondés est d'Amman, à cause de la forte densité de population dans l'agglomération.

L'autre échantillon sondé comprend 501 représentants des élites de la classe politique et économique. «On retrouve des membres de différents ministères, de l'Assemblée, du corps juridique ou de plusieurs partis politiques. En ce qui concerne le secteur économique, on a sondé des syndicats et cent dirigeants de grandes compagnies commerciales en Jordanie», explique Fares Bazbazat.

Cette méthode d'échantillonnage est calquée sur celle adoptée par le département des statistiques pour le recensement de 1994.

Les trois questions ont été rédigées par des professionnels du centre. «Nous adoptons les mêmes méthodes de sondage que celles utilisées à l'étranger», assure Hamaneh. «Il faut avoir confiance en la capacité de nos citoyens de donner un jugement objectif et constructif. C'est plus délicat pour l'échantillon spécial des 501 décideurs car on redoute que leur opinion ne soit guidée par leurs intérêts personnels», commente Mouhammad Masalrah.

«Il faut qu'on apprenne à analyser et non pas seulement donner un avis subjectif, basé sur de seules impressions.» Il ne reste donc plus qu'à laisser le gouvernement agir pour permettre aux citoyens, cette fois, de formuler un jugement basé sur des faits et non plus sur des intentions.

Oroub El Abed



Quelques jours seulement après sa formation, le gouvernement d'Abdel Karim Kabariti peut avoir, grâce à ce sondage, une notion assez précise de la façon dont est perçue, au sein de la population, le changement de politique annoncé.

Trois questions pour deux échantillons

Trois questions ont été posées entre le 6 et le 10 février à un échantillon national (E.N.) de 1200 personnes, composé d'autant de femmes que d'hommes, et à un échantillon spécial (E.S.) de 501 personnes faisant partie de l'élite politique et économique du pays. Cette étude a été principalement réalisée par téléphone.

Question 1: Pensez-vous que le nouveau gouvernement soit capable d'assumer ses responsabilités dans l'avenir? Question 2: Dans quelle mesure jugez-vous le Premier ministre capable de remplir son rôle? Question 3: La composition du nouveau gouvernement vous satisfait-elle?

Les sondés pouvaient manifester leur degré de satisfaction selon une échelle allant de «très» à «peu» satisfait, les jugements négatifs ne connaissant eux pas les mêmes nuances puisqu'une seule possibilité de réponse était offerte.

Voici les principaux résultats du sondage (en pourcentage).

	Question 1		Question 2		Question 3	
	E.N.	E.S.	E.N.	E.S.	E.N.	E.S.
Très capable	38	30.1	51.7	45.5	32.2	32.7
Très satisfait	43.2	46.9	32	34.5		
Moyennement capable					37.2	43.5
Moyennement satisfait						
Peu capable	4.7	11.4	5.5	11.6		
Peu satisfait					7.2	19
Pas capable	4.2	7.2	2.7	4.6		
Pas satisfait					4.6	33

Recherche

Les mouvements palestiniens à l'étude

Pour lancer son programme de recherches s'intéressant aux mouvements palestiniens, le Cermoc a réuni à Amman une centaine de chercheurs au cours d'un atelier de travail.

Organisé par le Centre d'études et de recherches sur le Moyen-Orient contemporain (Cermoc) avec le soutien financier de l'Union européenne et des services culturels de l'ambassade de France, un colloque s'est intéressé au début du mois de février aux mouvements palestiniens, à travers leur territoire national et leurs espaces communautaires.

Cet atelier de travail a donné le départ d'un nouveau programme de recherches dont le but est de dessiner un cadre général de travail pour les chercheurs engagés dans différentes études sur les questions de la Palestine et des Palestiniens, dans les territoires occupés et autonomes ainsi qu'en Jordanie.

La première journée de ce colloque portait sur l'historiographie palestinienne, notamment le problème du déficit des analyses sociologiques par rapport aux analyses politiques. La question de la spécificité palestinienne dans le contexte régional et international a été aussi abordée, ainsi que les sujets touchant aux mouvements palestiniens, aux réfugiés, aux déplacés, à leur identité...

La deuxième partie de cette conférence était, elle, consacrée à des expériences de terrain, des chercheurs présentant des travaux notamment sur les élites traditionnelles palestiniennes, la crise et l'emploi chez les Palestiniens à Amman-Est ou bien le camp de réfugiés de al-Wahdat vu à travers son habitat.

Travaillant essentiellement auparavant avec des chercheurs français et jordaniens, le Cermoc collabore aujourd'hui avec beaucoup plus de scientifiques venant d'Europe ou du monde arabe.

Les chercheurs présents au colloque d'Amman venaient, entre autres, du Maghreb, de Palestine, du Canada, ou d'Italie. «Un tel colloque ne peut être que fructueux», explique Hana Jaber, chercheur associé au Cermoc. «Des chercheurs d'horizons intellectuels variés et de pays différents se communiquent leur questionnement et leur démarche. De ces mises en perspective se dégagent les questions palestiniennes, leur diversité reflétant les multiples expériences politiques et sociales par lesquelles sont passés les Palestiniens depuis 1948.»

Une des premières étapes du programme de recherches se concrétisera avec la publication, normalement à la fin de l'année, d'un ouvrage collectif en français et en anglais qui rassemblera les interventions des chercheurs durant le colloque d'Amman.

Mona Kaddoumi



Certaines études menées par le Cermoc concernent les camps de réfugiés palestiniens.

C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Peinture

«L'estampe de peintre en France», au Centre culturel français (CCF).

Une exposition réunissant les œuvres de quatre artistes: Jean-Charles Blais, Hélène Delprat, Philippe Favier et Gérard Garrouste.

Cinéma

Cycle Louis Malle au CCF:

«Lacombe Lucien», lundi 19 à 20h00, et «Viva Maria», lundi 26 à 20h00.

Vidéo

«Brigitte Bardot en chanson», de Jean-Louis Remilleux et Roland Coutas, le 25 février à 18h00 au CCF.

«La vérité», un film de Henri Georges Clouzot, mardi 27 à 20h00 au CCF.

Conférence

Mercredi 28 à 18h00, découverte du Centre de Ressources du CCF qui rassemble de nombreux CD-ROM sur la France, proposant, entre autres, une visite virtuelle du musée du Louvre.

Vous voulez écrire en français?

Alors n'hésitez pas à collaborer à la rédaction du Jourdain.

Que vous soyez passionné d'économie, de politique, de faits de société ou de culture, vos articles nous intéressent.

Pour tout renseignement, contactez Olivier Bras au Star au 645 380.

Musique

Agnès Bashir la touche-à-tout

Pianiste émérite, Agnès Bashir est aussi compositrice et professeur de musique. Géorgienne d'origine, elle a séduit la Jordanie depuis son arrivée en 1990.

La présence de musiciens irakiens venus s'installer depuis 1990 favorise le mouvement de promotion en Jordanie de la musique classique internationale en général, et de la musique occidentale en particulier.

Parmi eux, Agnès Bashir occupe une place tout à fait particulière. La pianiste née à Tbilissi en Géorgie, peut en effet être qualifiée de musicienne complète à plus d'un égard.

Formée en Russie par les plus grands maîtres, dont l'illustre Aram Ilitch Khatchaturian («La Danse du Sabre»), Agnès Bashir est musicienne, interprète et compositrice.

Mariée au violoniste irakien Kikri Bashir, elle a non seulement appris et maîtrisé la langue de son époux, mais a également réussi à assimiler les sonorités et les inflexions de l'arabe, les intégrant dans des compositions d'une grande originalité.

Fondatrice de l'école de ballet de Bagdad, Agnès Bashir a présenté une de ses premières œuvres, «Sindbad», un ballet en six tableaux produit par Kikri Bashir. A Amman, elle a mis en musique des poèmes d'un des plus célèbres écrivains contemporains arabes, Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, décédé l'an dernier.

L'interprétation de ces poèmes par la soprano Tania Tamari-Nasir a déjà donné lieu à plusieurs concerts à Amman et à Jérusalem, où Agnès Bashir interprétait au piano ses propres compositions.

La mise en musique classique, à structure occidentale, de ces poèmes arabes est déjà



Agnès Bashir, ici en compagnie du chef d'orchestre Mohammad Othman Siddiq, est à la fois musicienne, interprète et compositrice.

une première historique. Et musicalement parlant, il s'agit d'une grande réussite. «Ya Layli» (O Nuit), par exemple, est un morceau au lyrisme dramatique superbe, conciliant d'une part un jeu pianistique tout à fait rigoureux et classique, et d'autre part, une atmosphère orientale véritable.

A aucun moment, l'auditeur n'a l'impression d'un assemblage artificiel, le tout ayant été pensé, et surtout senti par Agnès Bashir, comme un seul élément homogène.

Une réelle inspiration L'inspiration chez la musicienne est réelle. Son excellente connaissance de la langue arabe y contribue clairement. Entre les cours privés qu'elle donne, son poste au Conservatoire national de musique, la

Fondation Nour Al-Hayat, les récitals qu'elle prépare, son travail de composition, et les concerts, notamment à l'ambassade de France, Agnès Bashir est une musicienne occupée.

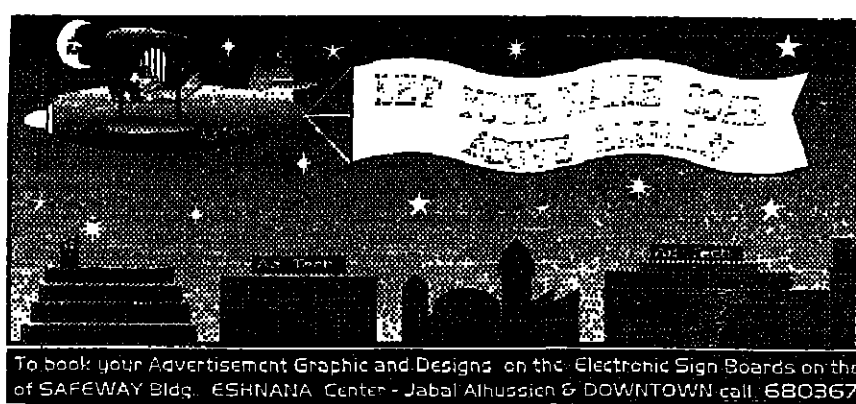
Elle a tout de même le temps de s'initier à l'écriture de partitions sur ordinateur, fort qui lui permet de gagner du temps en posant.

Si certains sceptiques viennent se demander comment une géorgienne réussit à intégrer l'arabisme dans ses compositions, il suffit de convaincre, de les reconnaître. «Schéhérazade» de Rimsky-Korsakov, dont certaines phrases sont aussi orales aussi belles que les morceaux écrits par elle.

Jean-Clair

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